

SCIENCE

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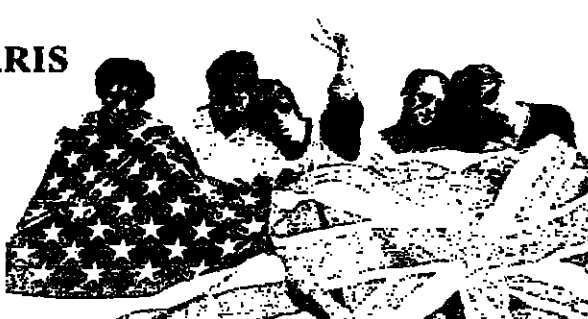
The equation that changed the world
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MATTHEW PARRIS

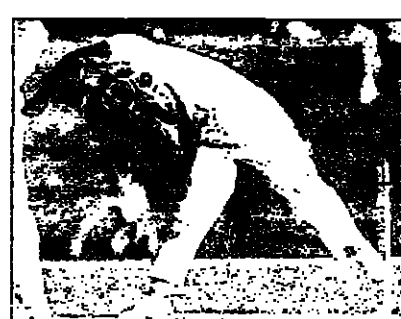
After Nigeria: can the world really save Africa?

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Collect three CDs Today: starring Oasis, Supergrass and Elastica
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SPORT on 16 pages

England v South Africa
Four-page pull-out on the Test cricket series

Customers cheated, says Ofwat

Three water companies face inquiry

By Nick Nuttall, Environment Correspondent

THREE water companies are cheating customers by charging them for sub-standard services and clean-up schemes which fail to materialise, says the Government-appointed regulator.

Ian Byatt, Director-General of the Office of Water Services (Ofwat), has ordered an investigation into a series of damning failures which include supplying contaminated water and missing targets on cutting leaks and breakdowns in supply.

Letters leaked to *The Times* reveal that the regulator is demanding that the chiefs of Yorkshire, South West and North West water companies make documents and senior staff available to his investigators. He has threatened that failure to comply would result in him invoking special powers to force them to do so.

Mr Byatt is asking why water treatment works covering pollution at bathing beaches and in rivers have been delayed despite increased charges imposed by the companies, ostensibly to pay for them under the price limit mechanism. He also cites failures in meeting health and environmental limits on pollutants, tackling ageing pumping gear, fixing decrepit mains and reducing the number of homes getting low pressure or interruptions in supply.

Yorkshire Water, which tomorrow will ask at a public inquiry for the right to ration water to thousands of house-

holds, has insisted it has been battling to tackle shortages in affected areas. It has claimed improvements have been undermined by the worst drought since the 17th century. But a leaked letter from the regulator to Trevor Newton, chairman of the company, challenges these claims by revealing that Yorkshire has known of the problems for 20 years.

Mr Byatt tells Derek Green, managing director of North West Water, that one of the

Deluge of criticism 10
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reasons for his investigation is sewage contamination to the water of 700,000 customers. The company's 6.8 million customers are under a hosepipe ban and in some areas car washes, public fountains and leisure centre sprinkler systems have been banned under drought order.

North West has also alarmed environmentalists by winning the right to take more water from rivers and lakes, including Windermere, to secure supplies. The firm has partly blamed customers of frittering away gallons on gardens.

But Mr Byatt's letter reveals that the company is leaking an astonishing 37 per cent of its supplies through its mains and pipe network.

South West Water, which has some of the highest bills in

Britain, is also attacked on a raft of health and environmental failures. Mr Byatt tells William Fraser, managing director of South West: "This brings into question your company's ability to manage its functions in an effective and prudent manner."

News of the investigations are likely to trigger a political storm as they confirm claims that significant parts of the industry are putting profits, directors' salaries and shareholders before customers. Over the past five years bills have risen on average by nearly double and directors' salaries by up to 500 per cent.

The water companies are making profits of about £1,600 million a year, and critics have accused them of relying too much on increased customer charges to fund operations, rather than borrowing from the banks or through the stock market.

Frank Dobson, Labour's Environment Spokesman, said last night: "These investigations come not a minute too soon. But the public will wonder why they are being kept confidential. The public have to pay the bills, drink the water... Why shouldn't they know what is going on?"

Spokesmen for North West Water and South West Water said yesterday that their companies would co-operate fully with the investigation. A spokesman for Yorkshire was unavailable. Mr Byatt says his team will be reporting their findings in January.



Michael Heseltine, deputising for John Major who was in New Zealand, waits to lay a wreath at the Cenotaph yesterday. Behind him is Baroness Thatcher. About 10,000 people watched the ceremony in Whitehall. Page 3

Labour will not hit top earners, says Blair

By Philip Basset and Jill Sherman

TONY BLAIR today declares that a future Labour government will not introduce "penal" tax rates for high earners and hails Labour as "the party of enterprise."

In an interview with *The Times*, Mr Blair underlines the need to stimulate wealth creation and supports those who become millionaires through their own efforts.

In a speech today to the Confederation of British Industry annual conference in Birmingham Mr Blair will emphasise the importance of individuals benefiting from the wealth they create. He will promise "a new era of partnership between business and Labour" as he tells industrial leaders that Britain must become a nation of entrepreneurs.

In his first address to the CBI, he will admit that Labour has made errors in the past but he will stress that the party has changed in its relation both to unions and commerce and that there will be no turning back.

Labour will not be about picking winners and there would be no dividing line between the state and the market, he will argue.

Mr Blair will dismiss the Tory promise to make Britain the enterprise centre of Europe as a "fantasy" undermined by the lack of education and training in the workforce, and will assert that Labour would make the nation "the knowledge capital of Europe."

In his interview with *The Times* Mr Blair says business is looking for reassurance from Labour on personal taxes.

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Major bars all arms sales to Nigeria after hangings

FROM NICHOLAS WOOD IN AUCKLAND

BRITAIN yesterday imposed a total arms embargo on Nigeria as the Commonwealth unveiled an unprecedented package of tough new measures designed to purge its ranks of military regimes and one-party states.

Announcing the embargo, John Major said that a worldwide ban on Nigerian oil exports would also have to be considered. But he cautioned against sanctions that might deepen the suffering of the Nigerian people.

The action by Commonwealth leaders in Auckland, New Zealand, comes after the decision to suspend Nigeria from the 52-nation body for defying pleas for clemency and executing the writer Ken Saro-Wiwa and eight political activists from the Ogoni tribe.

It puts other military regimes in the Commonwealth

on notice that unless they restore basic civil rights they will suffer the same punishment being meted out to the Nigerian regime of General Sani Abacha.

The announcement came as gruesome details of the execution of Saro-Wiwa emerged. One Nigerian newspaper reported that he had survived the first four attempts to hang him, and died with these words on his lips: "God, take my soul but the struggle continues."

The Commonwealth leaders also decided to set up a monitoring group of foreign ministers to police the Harare Declaration of 1991 on civil rights and to take action against rogue states. Sierra Leone and The Gambia, both under military rule, are the most obvious targets. But, as Mr Major made clear, other

governments with a tenuous commitment to democracy and the rule of law could also become singled out.

Britain, in common with its European Union partners, already restricts arms sales to Nigeria. The presumption has been that applications for export licences, considered on a case-by-case basis, will not be approved. But now all UK arms sales will be banned.

As the disgraced Nigerian delegation packed their bags, Commonwealth leaders set out the conditions for their country's return to the fold. These are the release of 43 political prisoners, including

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Security men knew of plot to kill Rabin

Israel's Shin Bet security service acknowledged that it had been told in June of a plot to kill Yitzhak Rabin and was given a description of the assassin, Yigal Amir.

Mr Rabin's widow, Leah, yesterday urged Israelis to pursue her husband's quest for peace as she told a memorial rally of more than 200,000 people in Tel Aviv that his death would not be in vain. She told her husband's bodyguards: "There is nothing you have to reproach yourselves for".....Page 15

The Times

Sales of *The Times* last month were 675,032, an increase of 60,555 (9.85 per cent) over October last year, the highest recorded by any national newspaper. Over the same period, sales of *The Daily Telegraph* have fallen by 26,353.

Tory MP accused over share deal

By Jill Sherman, Political Correspondent

ALLEGATIONS that a Tory MP offered to use his influence in Whitehall to act for a private company in return for shares are to be studied by the new Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards.

Patrick Nicholls, a former minister, is reported to have agreed to take a 5 per cent shareholding in a water equipment firm in return for trying to persuade the Government to buy its products. John Prescott, Labour's deputy leader, has formally submitted the allegations to Sir Gordon Downey, who takes up his post on Wednesday.

Sir Gordon said last night that he would examine the allegations. "Clearly, if there was something which it would be appropriate for me to look at, I would look at it."

The case will highlight present public concerns about how MPs use their position to

boost their incomes. Last Monday, despite stiff opposition from Tory backbenchers, the Commons voted to force MPs to disclose all outside earnings from work related to Parliament.

Mr Prescott, who insists that Mr Nicholls breached the old parliamentary rules, said the "shares for influence" deal was just as bad as the "cash for questions" row which led to the Nolan inquiry into standards in public life.

Mr Nicholls, who represents Teignbridge in Devon, also came under fire from some of his own colleagues, who accused him of exploiting a grey area for personal gain. But he was unrepentant, declaring that he had done nothing wrong and that his was an unpaid adviser, with World Water Supplies, Ltd, a West Country company, was dec-

Continued on page 2, col 7

Oxford censors pornography on the Internet

By David Charter, Education Correspondent

OXFORD University students have been blocked from gaining access to soft porn on the Internet after a survey showed that pornography was more likely to be called up on college computers than academic discussion groups.

More than 4,000 connections were made to an Internet video group called

"multimedia.erotica" last month, making it the fourth most popular item viewed by students and dons.

Freely available information included video clips called *Smasher* and *Sexapades*, as well as footage featuring masturbation and lesbian encounters. Ukenra, the company which links British universities to the Internet, has now blocked the site after complaints from the Oxford authorities.

Academics are particularly protec-

tive of the Internet, which has become a symbol of freedom of expression because of the unhindered way contributions are made.

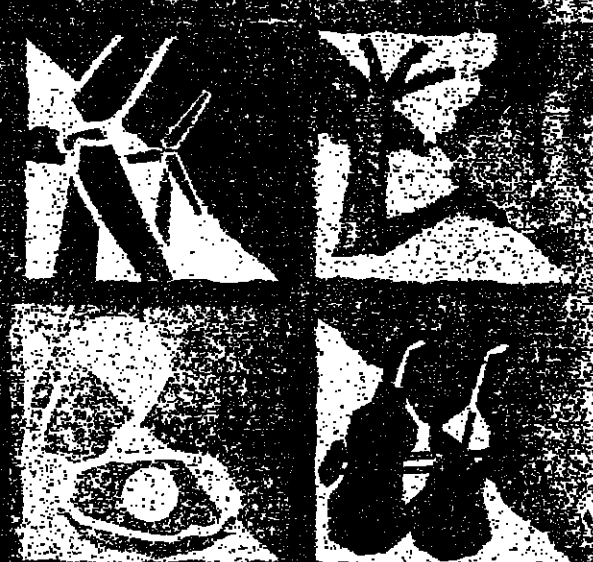
Moir Johnston, a university spokesman, insisted that the removal of offensive material could not be called censorship. She said: "The vast majority of Internet use is for academic work but there are going to be people 'surfing the web'. The university authorities have recently become

aware that there may be a significant problem of access to material, including pornographic material, on the Internet, which is irrelevant to university work. The university's concern must be with the misuse of resources provided for academic purposes."

Only two academic discussion groups featured in the top 80 connections to "news groups" made during October. Nine others were devoted to sex topics, including erotic images.

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Queen leads tribute to glorious dead Nation remembers fallen on day of mist and memories

By Joe Joseph

PRIDE, stained with sadness, hung thick as mist over Whitehall yesterday as the Queen led the nation in honouring Britain's war dead at the Cenotaph.

Crowds up to 12 deep lined the street for the Remembrance Day service as the Royal Family, except Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother, paid their respects with more than 10,000 veterans, political leaders, and Commonwealth High Commissioners. Nigeria's High Commissioner had been invited but did not attend after world outcry over the execution of the dissident author Ken Saro-Wiwa.

It was well past noon before the river of old soldiers, sailors and airmen had all flowed past the Cenotaph and saluted, marching 100 paces to the minute. Some of the men and women still carried their backs ramrod straight, while others walked bowed by age. Some relied on wheelchairs, a few on guide dogs. As they

marched, the disarmingly jaunty melody of *It's A Long Way To Tipperary* rang out, punctuating the anguish just as it had in wartime.

As wreath after wreath was added to the necklace of flowers around the foot of the Cenotaph, Lutyens' white Portland stone obelisk rose like a mysterious island from a sea of blood-red poppies. Memories of the dead and the missing, the injured and the heartbroken, descended on London like falling leaves. It was a scene repeated at ceremonies across Britain.

The service began with a programme of music virtually unchanged for half a century. *Rule Britannia*, *Minstrel Boy*, *Men Of Harlech* whistled down Whitehall, as the Royal Family took their places. The Queen Mother, 95 and frail, was absent for only the third time since the Second World War. Between the chiming of Big Ben and the firing of a field gun by the Royal Horse

Artillery, the Queen led the nation in two minutes' silence at 11am. For many it was the third silence of the weekend.

A dogged campaign by the Royal British Legion for a return to the tradition of holding the silences on the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month bore fruit on Saturday, when millions across Britain observed the silence. This tradition, marking the exact time of the armistice at the end of the First World War, was abandoned after the Second World War when the ceremonies were switched to the nearest Sunday.

Yesterday, too, many paid their respects as they paid for their groceries. Sainsbury's announced the start of the silence at all 276 of its stores open on Sunday. For many, a third silence was observed on Saturday night, during the annual Royal British Legion Festival of Remembrance at the Royal Albert Hall, which was watched by millions on television.

At Whitehall, after buglers of the Royal Marines sounded *The Last Post*, the Queen stepped forward to lay her black-edged wreath of poppies against the Cenotaph. The Duke of Edinburgh, the Prince of Wales, the Duke of York and the Duke of Kent followed. Major Colin Burgess then laid a wreath on behalf of the Queen Mother. Looking down from balconies of the Foreign and Commonwealth office were the Princess Royal and Captain Timothy Laurence, the Duke and Duchess of Gloucester, the Duchess of Kent, Princess Alexandra and the Hon Sir Angus Ogilvy.

With John Major away in New Zealand attending the Commonwealth Heads of Government summit, it fell to the Deputy Prime Minister, Michael Heseltine, in mourning suit, to represent the Government. As Beethoven's *Funeral March* swirled around the ministries of Whitehall, Tony Blair, the Labour leader, Paddy Ashdown, the Liberal Democrat leader, and David Trimble, the Ulster Unionist Party leader, also paid their respects. Malcolm Rifkind, the Foreign Secretary, laid a wreath on behalf of the dependent territories.

The Royal British Legion will consider today whether to press for the two minutes' silence to be made permanent. Next year November 11 falls on a Monday, a work day, although a spokesman said this could help schools to become involved.

Former enemies raise glasses to a peaceful future

FROM PEREGRINE HODSON IN TOKYO

VETERANS from Britain and Japan stood shoulder to shoulder yesterday in a moving ceremony of remembrance at the Yokohama Commonwealth War Cemetery. Twenty-eight members of the Burma Campaign Fellowship, a group of British veterans dedicated to post-war reconciliation with Japan stood shoulder to shoulder with their former enemies.

Autumn leaves fell as priests and ministers of Christian, Hindu, Muslim, Buddhist and Jewish faiths said prayers, followed by a reading of Lawrence Binyon's verse *They shall not grow old*. Under an overcast sky, the notes of *The Last Post* echoed out over the assembly of old soldiers, ambassadors from Commonwealth countries, and Japanese and American representatives. The last notes died away and the company bowed their heads in silence.

Then, Major General Sir Ian Lyall Grant, leader of the British group of veterans, and Susumu Nishida, the leader of the 14,000 strong Japanese Burma Veterans Association who was wounded 11 times in the campaign, stepped forward together to lay a wreath before the simple memorial.

Gwilym Davies, who came to Japan in 1983 on a mission of reconciliation and who, with Masao Hirokubo, a fellow veteran of the war in Burma, is largely responsible for five successive visits by groups of British veterans, watched the culmination of his efforts, 50 years after the end of the war. He gestured towards the lines of old soldiers, British and Japanese, their medals shining in a brief ray of autumn sunlight. He said: "It's great to see them all mixed up like this. No grudge. No hate. No malice."

Later, the old soldiers went on to another ceremony — no doubt furthering the spirit of reconciliation — at the nearby Kirin beer factory where men who once tried to kill one another raised glasses, remembered battles and celebrated their survival in mutual friendship. Renichi Misawa, visibly moved, recalled the two years of forced labour he endured in Rangoon after the war. "It was very hard. Ten ounces of rice a day for working men. That is all. But many Allied prisoners suffered terribly under the Japanese. We fought each other and now we are friends."



Jack and Summie Mann at RAF Lyneham in 1991 after his release from captivity

Jack Mann dies in sleep after a lifetime of battle

By Michael Theodorou in Cyprus and Kathryn Knight

JACK MANN, the former fighter pilot and Beirut hostage, died in his sleep at his home in Cyprus yesterday. He was 81.

Mr Mann had suffered heart and lung problems since his release from captivity in 1991. He had spent 29 months in solitary confinement and was regularly beaten by his Muslim militant captors. Mr Mann and his wife had lived in Beirut for 45 years, refusing to move as conditions deteriorated in the civil strife.

Last week he was admitted to hospital with bronchial pneumonia, but he chose to return to the home in Nicosia he had shared with his flamboyant wife Summie until her

death three years ago. His doctor, Cecilia Stephanou, said Mr Mann had intended to watch the Remembrance Day commemorations on television but passed away peacefully in his sleep at 8.30am. Dr Stephanou, who had also nursed Mrs Mann, said: "He had great strength of character and incredible spirit."

Yesterday a bouquet with a "get well soon" message, sent last week by the Manns' friend the Duchess of York, was still in his home as colleagues and dignitaries paid tribute to him. Terry Waite, a former fellow hostage, said: "It was cruel and senseless to keep a man of his years in such appalling conditions, but he was a tough

chap, a rough diamond, and a survivor of both the war and his captivity. It is poignant that he should die on Remembrance Sunday."

John McCarthy said: "I was on my own for three months in captivity [in Lebanon]. How Jack managed to stay sane in solitary for over two years with no contact except for that with his captors is astonishing. He and Summie showed great courage and humour."

Wing Commander Pat Hancock, of the Battle of Britain Fighter Association, of which Mr Mann was a member, said: "He and his wife were a couple of tough cookies."

Obituary, page 23



Scaling new heights: the Very Reverend Christopher Lewis, 51, the Dean of St Albans, practices for a 200ft abseil from the cathedral's Norman tower to mark the launch of a campaign to raise £500,000 for a music trust

Birthday girl, 18, in coma after drug at party

By Adam Fresco

A GIRL was in a coma last night after taking an Ecstasy tablet at her 18th birthday party.

Police said that the drug may have been part of a contaminated batch and that more people may be in danger.

The girl collapsed early yesterday at her home in Letchingdon, Essex. She was taken to Broomfield Hospital in Chelmsford, where a scan showed her brain had swelled. Friends told police that she had taken a tablet of the drug four hours before she collapsed shortly after midnight. The drug was thought to have been bought in Basildon on Saturday evening.

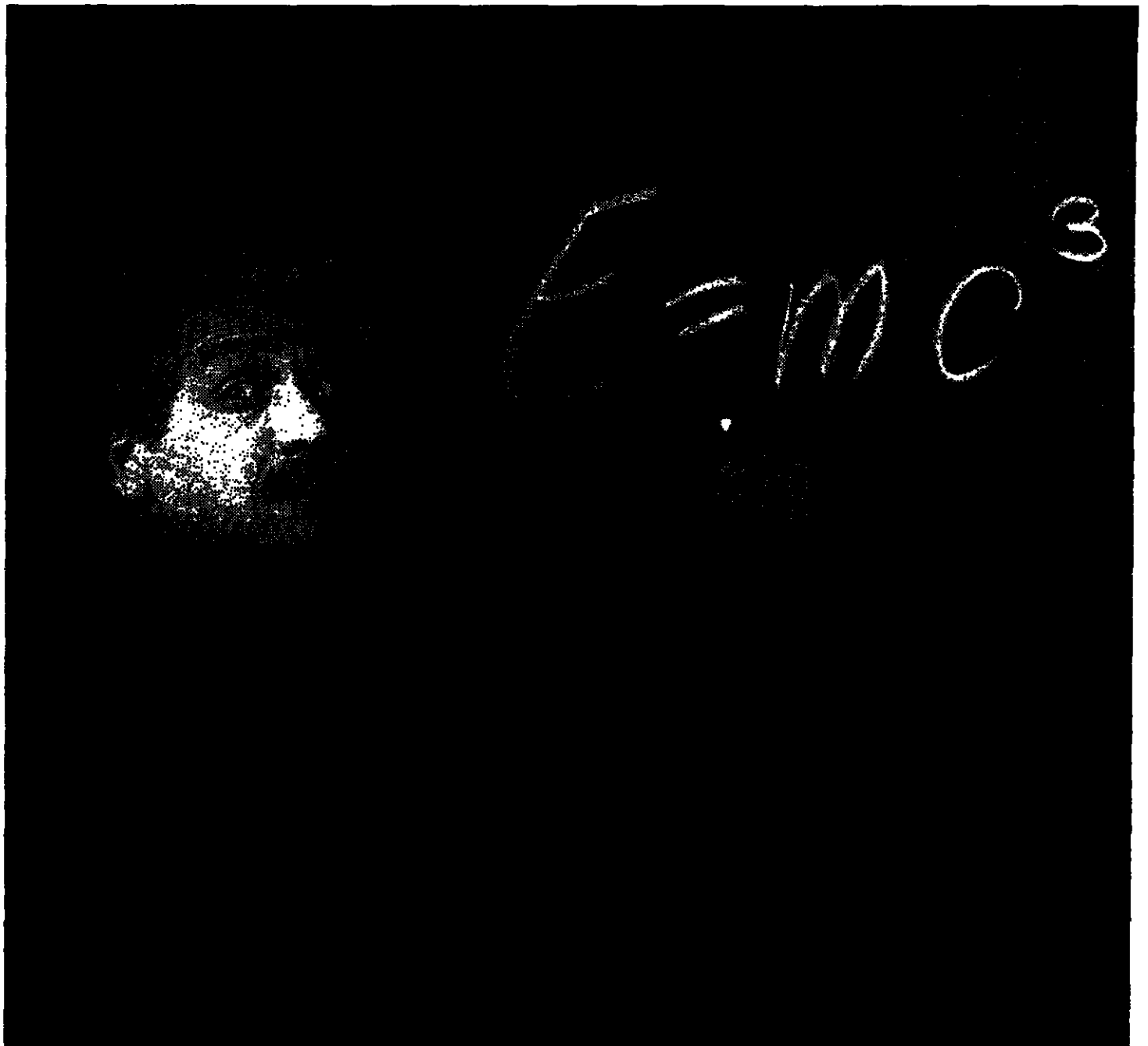
A small amount of cannabis and Ecstasy has been seized by police and an 18-year-old man was last night being held on suspicion of supplying controlled drugs.

A police spokesman said: "There are real fears that the tablet that the girl took was contaminated and that many others may have been sold to unsuspecting young people. It is vital we track down the supply before more people are put at very serious risk. The suspect tablets have a picture of an apple on one side and are off-white in colour."

A 17-year-old girl has been interviewed by police in relation to the possession of Ecstasy and released on police bail.

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A high-contrast, black and white photograph. In the foreground, a person stands with their back to the camera, holding a long, thin vertical pole. The person is silhouetted against a very bright, almost white background. Two tall, dark poles lean outwards from the top of the frame, meeting at a horizontal crossbar. The background is a bright, grainy sky, and the foreground shows dark, silhouetted trees or bushes. The overall effect is one of stark contrast and geometric forms.

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Reporter urges more explicit footage

Martin Bell accuses BBC editors of glamorising war

FROM ALEXANDRA FREAN IN BERLIN

MARTIN BELL, the BBC foreign correspondent, has accused the corporation of glamorising war through its refusal to show the full extent of human suffering and destruction in war zones such as Bosnia.

Bell, who has worked for the BBC for 33 years, four of them covering the conflict in the former Yugoslavia, said that the BBC's refusal to show explicit footage of bloodied corpses was a form of censorship. "We show the soldiers blazing away in the ruins - what we call the 'bang bang' - we do not show what happens at the other end," he said. "This has the effect of glamorising and prettyfying war and makes it seem an acceptable way of settling disputes."

In reality, war was "a bad taste business" in which victims did not expire gracefully and conveniently out of sight. "We are in danger of falsifying the world around us," he said.

He told Newsworld 95, an international conference of television news organisations in Berlin, that the new ethos of public accountability at the BBC had made news editors oversensitive to the effect of violent scenes on viewers. The BBC was being "pushed and pushed" into an ever more cautious attitude by feedback from audience research and focus groups until it ended up showing virtually nothing at all, he said. "Of course these pictures upset people. But if our policy imperative is to not upset people, then where are we going?"

He cited the example of the killing of an aid worker in January 1994 in the former Yugoslavia. "After the body had been removed there was a

big debate about whether we should show a close-up of blood on the snow," he said. In the end, editors in London preferred to broadcast a wide-angle shot of the scene.

The solution to dilemmas such as these was for studio-based editors to allow more discretion to their experienced reporters in the field, who were perfectly capable of showing sufficient restraint. "I'm not saying that we should show everything."

Bell, 57, who was made a CBE in 1992, has covered 11 conflicts, from the Middle East to Vietnam and Nicaragua, and has reported from more than 50 countries. He says that his two-year national service with the Suffolk Regiment in Cyprus gave him an invaluable insight into military matters.

His bleeding in war reporting came in 1967 when he was sent to cover the six-day Arab-Israeli war. A stint in Angola earned him the first Television Reporter of the Year award from the Royal Television Society in 1977.

In August 1992 he was hit in the stomach and groin by shrapnel while covering the conflict in the former Yugoslavia. Months earlier his car was hit by two stray bullets, one missing his head by inches. Recovering in London, he said that while a small voice at the back of his mind had told him to give up, he was committed to returning to Bosnia to continue covering the conflict.

Last night, Richard Sambrook, editor of BBC News, denied that the BBC glamorised war. The corporation had shown appalling images of civilians and children who had been slaughtered in the

former Yugoslavia, he said, but it had to maintain a respect for the sensitivities of its audiences, even though this might represent an unfashionable stance.

"We have to use violence as a kind of television grammar," he said. "We have to hold something in reserve for when there is something that is categorically more appalling. How do we show that when we have been showing bits of bodies day by day?"

Mr Sambrook said it was ironic that Bell should be so critical when he embodied the BBC's values so well in his reporting. He added that the BBC was more cautious now in showing violence than it had been in the past. "The most powerful reporting comes not just from showing graphic images, but from text and images."



The Duke of Windsor's sympathies for Hitler angered his court and Government

Edward VIII 'was prime mover in Nazi conspiracy'

BY LIN JENKINS

EDWARD VIII was an active player in a Nazi plot to betray Britain, seeking revenge for being denied the throne after his abdication, according to claims to be made in a television documentary this week.

The programme contests the widely accepted view that the former King was easily flattered into playing a part in a minor wartime conspiracy. Documents obtained by Channel 4's *Secret Lives* documentary *Edward VIII, The Traitor King* are said to show that the Duke of Windsor was far more than a passive dupe.

The Duke of Windsor's sympathies for Adolf Hitler angered his court and the Government both before and after his abdication. However, his right-wing leanings have been viewed by only a minority of historians as the prime reason for his abdication rather than his love for a twice-divorced woman.

The programme, to be shown on Thursday, claims that he was prepared to use the Nazis to stir up a revolution in Britain leading to the

collapse of the Churchill government, dispose of King George VI and regain the throne with his wife, Wallis Simpson, as Queen, according to *The Observer* yesterday.

The newspaper claims that documents of the PVDE, the Portuguese secret police force, from a newly opened archive show that the Duke was an active player in the plot. In mid-1940, says the report, when the Nazis and their agents in Portugal and Spain were at the height of their plot to woo the Duke to their cause, he allowed the conspirators to meet at his house and use his car while he visited the German, Spanish and British embassies in Lisbon.

Information was obtained from a PVDE spy working undercover in the Duke's household in a villa near Lisbon. The newspaper says the Windsors ignored a telegram from Churchill ordering them to return to Britain and that the documents detail events over the next month before the Duke reluctantly set sail for the Bahamas.



Bell after being hit by shrapnel in Sarajevo in 1992

Mr Heseltine should wrap up



MEDICAL BRIEFING

MICHAEL HESELTINE, the Deputy Prime Minister, was the only one of the party leaders without an overcoat at the Cenotaph. If he had remained in the Welsh Guards, the regiment into which he was commissioned 35 years ago, he would have been better wrapped against the autumnal damp. All the soldiers from the Household Division on parade were wearing double-breasted coats that reached to their calves.

Unlike Tony Blair, David Trimble and even the former commando Paddy Ashdown, Mr Heseltine was without an overcoat although his need to keep warm was the greatest, for he is known to have had a heart attack.

It is a popular misconception that cold is only dangerous for those caught on the mountainside or flung into icy water. In fact, the chill experienced at a football match or even waiting too long for a bus, has an appreciable effect on the sudden-death rate from coronary thrombosis or from a stroke.

Chilling for any more than 20 minutes is all that is needed to increase the coagulability of the blood. Changes in body temperature can also create an irregular heartbeat and cause atrial fibrillation which may also contribute to the risk of a stroke.

As well as the obvious advice to those who have had a heart attack of the need for a healthy diet and daily brisk exercise, patients should also be advised to keep warm, particularly when they are older, when their body's defensive mechanisms are less efficient. Apart from being

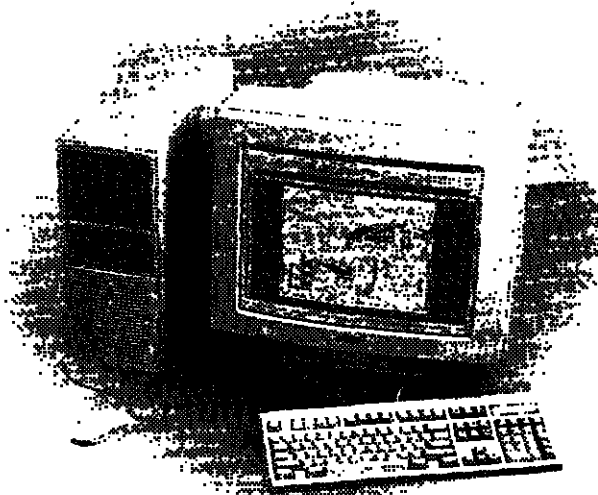
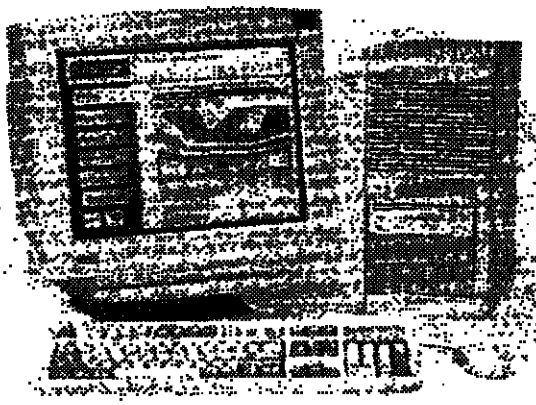
better dressed out of doors it is also important to keep warm indoors. Heating at night can be a lifesaver even though someone is comfortable under a duvet. The temperature of the inhaled air is also significant. Angina sufferers are well aware that breathing in cold air causes chest pain.

Cold mornings are always a difficult time for those with heart disease. If cars are parked overnight they should be heated before somebody with doubtful coronary arteries drives off to work. A car which has been standing in frosty weather soon becomes colder than the icebox in a refrigerator, and nobody with heart disease would sit in the deep freeze to test their coronary arteries.

Mr Heseltine looked splendid in his morning coat, but perhaps it concealed National Service longjohns and a Damart vest. Even if the Deputy Prime Minister was chilly, not all the odds were against him. He is happily married and his shock of hair was silhouetted against the Cenotaph. Two papers published in the November edition of the *American Journal of Epidemiology* would give him encouragement. One showed that married men are one-and-a-half times less likely to have a coronary than those who are unmarried, and the other study demonstrated that men who retain their hair are only half as likely to have a coronary thrombosis or stroke as those who have lost their hair.

DR THOMAS STUTTAFOORD

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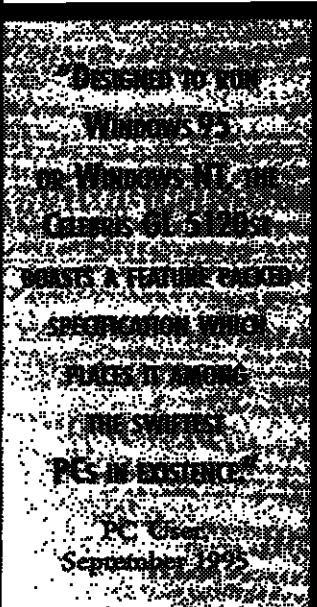
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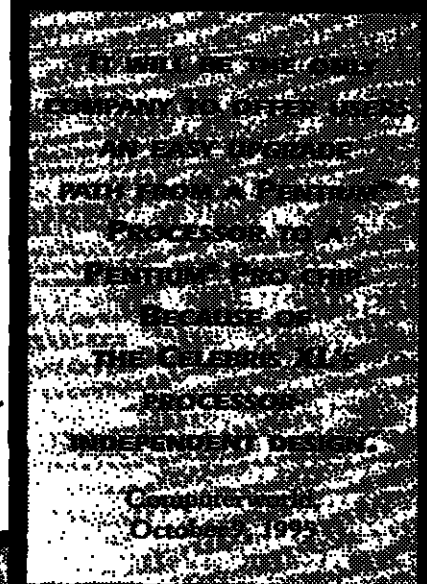
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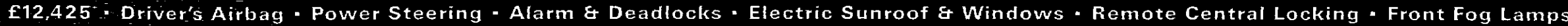


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Hundreds of BSE infected cows 'eaten each week'

By a Staff Reporter

AN ESTIMATED 600 cows infected with "mad cow" disease are being eaten each week in spite of safeguards to stop the meat getting into the food chain, a television programme will claim tonight. The beef from 600 cattle is enough to make two million meat pies.

The claims are made in the wake of recent surveys that show that almost a quarter of Britons have given up beef because of fears about Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE). Ministry of Agriculture figures, based on the assumption that two cows

with BSE have been eaten for every one that is diagnosed and destroyed, show that hundreds are ending up on the nation's meal tables. Scientists have told Granada TV's *World in Action* that "sub-clinical" cases - where cattle have been infected but are not yet showing the full-blown symptoms of BSE - could be twice the number of those known to be affected.

Professor Jeff Almond, a microbiologist at Reading University, told the programme: "We do not know whether this agent will transmit to humans. We think not but we don't know for certain and therefore if I was certain a particular piece of meat came from an infected animal I would choose not to eat it."

In another interview, Dr Graham Medley, an epidemiologist at Warwick University, says that, after studying government data, "the estimate for this year suggests the order of 40,000 animals are being eaten. This represents a ratio of two to one between the infected numbers and the numbers actually diagnosed. So that for every one diagnosed perhaps two are being eaten that would have developed BSE had they lived."

Dr Steven Dealler, a microbiologist at Burnley Hospital, Lancashire, claims that the number of infected cows entering the food chain is higher. He estimates that about seven out of eight of the infected cows would be eaten. Keith Meldrum, the Government's Chief Veterinary Officer, asked if he accepted that his scientists' own calculations showed there were two sub-clinical cases for each one reported, said: "Yes, that is a calculation that's been made, that there are a significant number of cattle that could be going in for slaughter that could be incubating the disease."

The programme also claims that, with the help of a dealer, it bought three cows displaying signs of BSE at two auctions in the northwest of England. They were later inspected by a Ministry of Agriculture vet and slaughtered. The programme claims that government safeguards are supposed to identify such animals. Mr Meldrum said: "There are animals going into the food chain that could be incubating the disease and that's why we have controls in place to ensure that any infectivity is removed and that the risk to man is minimised."



Scotland's wild beauty is attracting a growing band of wealthy foreign landlords who have spent £80 million buying sporting estates

Foreigners buy half of Scotland in Highland clearance sale

By Gillian Bowditch, Scotland Correspondent

THE Highlands have become a playground for rich foreigners, with half of Scotland owned by just 500 people, few of whom are Scots. Foreign owners, many of them absentee landlords, have spent £80 million buying sporting estates, according to Andrew Wightman, author of *Who Owns Scotland Now?* He says Scotland needed a better land registry with comprehensive geographical listings and owners' names, a system that operated in much of Europe. "The current register only states legal necessities for land ownership and sometimes not even the owner's name. Some owners used offshore companies to avoid disclosing their identities."

Mr Wightman's book, based on detailed research, shows that more than 50 large estates and many lesser ones were in foreign hands. He says foreign ownership in Scotland was at a record high. Recent sales included the 48,000-acre Corruir Estate, near Fort William, to two American-based professors. The estate was sold by the Stirling Maxwell family, which had owned it since 1890.

The island of Eigg is now owned by the German artist Maruma, and in January the Strathconon estate in Ross and Cromarty was bought by the Kirk Kristiansen family, the Danish Lego millionaires. The MacDonald-Buchanan family had owned the estate for three generations. The issue of land ownership in Scotland has been contentious since the days of the Highland Clearances in the late 18th and early 19th centuries when landlords, some Scottish and some English,

removed tens of thousands of clansmen from their homes to make way for large-scale sheep farming. Many crofters felt they had been betrayed by their clan chiefs, a feeling which intensified as the estates passed into the hands of non-Highland and non-Gaelic proprietors. The 50-strong community living on Kynodart, a peninsula on the mainland opposite Skye, are to put together a bid for the 16,500-acre estate which is on the market for £1.5 million. The deadline has been extended and the community is keen to have a say in the future of the estate, which has been described as one of Europe's last wildernesses. The community, along with the local authority, the John Muir Trust, the Chris Brasher Trust and the impresario Cameron Mackintosh, who



Maruma, who bought the island of Eigg

Food alerts shunned by public with too much on its plate

By Nigel Hawkes, Science Editor

PUBLIC distrust of food "experts" meant that campaigns on healthy eating were being ignored, a new study says. Instead of following ever-changing trends, people were more likely to prefer more old-fashioned advice such as to eat all their greens.

The upwardly mobile young of the 1980s have become the health enthusiasts of the 1990s (Catherine Milton writes). According to researchers from York University, whose work appears in *Sociology of Health and Illness*, "Social mobility has a profound impact on men's behaviour. Those from manual backgrounds who have been socially mobile into the middle classes are less likely to drink heavily and smoke."

Food scares were largely seen as the creation of the media, and one respondent even welcomed them. "When the BSE scare hit, all of a sudden the beef went down to half price and we lived on beef for a few weeks. It was really great."

The investigation in Lewisham, south London, was conducted by two research students from the anthropology department at Goldsmiths College. Anne Keane and Anna Willets conducted long interviews with 150 people. They discovered a deep well of cynicism, with respondents suspicious of experts, the media, doctors, nutritionists, and enthusiasts for vegetarian or organic diets. One man said: "I don't really trust doctors and nutritionists because they contradict themselves." A female interviewee told them: "One day zinc is good for you, the next it's bad. It's a minefield."

Anne Keane said that new information about the links between food and health was seldom seen as an advance in scientific knowledge. As one young man put it: "What you're told changes from day to day, when the mood takes them. It changes with every new fad and fashion."

Respondents were often derisive about healthy eating advice, which was seen as restrictive and likely to deny pleasure and enjoyment of eating. One 58-year-old said of healthy eaters: "A lot of them don't have any stamina, it's like a fad thing. It's a part of their mentality. Why are they so obsessed with their diet? Why can't they just eat things like everyone else does?" Respondents were sceptical of those who paraded their dietary convictions. One researcher was asked: "Are you a veggie? I bet you are, you

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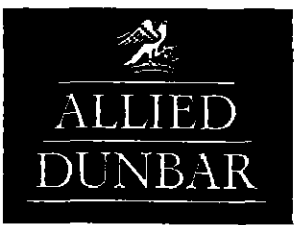
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SECURITY GUARDING SERVICES.

The Home Office is market testing the manned security guarding services of its six central London buildings. These services include access control, dealing with visitors and building patrols. The proposed contract will be for three years with the possibility of two one-year extensions.

Organisations with a turnover exceeding £4.7 million per year, which are interested in being invited to tender should contact the person below by 24th November 1995 to obtain further information and a questionnaire. Completed questionnaires received after 8th December 1995 may not be considered.

It is envisaged that invitations to tender will be issued in January 1996 to suitably qualified and experienced external organisations and the current in-house service provider. The evaluation criteria for the award of any contract will be the most economically advantageous tender given due regard to both quality of the proposed service and the price. The Home Office reserves the right not to award any contract. The Home Office reserves the right to issue a list of all parties invited to tender.

Kevin Vero, Efficiency and Consultancy Division, Home Office, Room 349, Horseferry House, Dean Ryle Street, London SW1P 2AW. Telephone 0171-217 8139. Fax 0171-217 8244.

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Rival is blamed for killing prize pigeons

By Adam Fresco

A JEALOUS rival has been blamed for killing 13 racing pigeons valued at £30,000. The birds were found with their necks wrung only hours after their owner, Ronnie Williamson, a prize-winning fancier from Portadown, Co Armagh, collected 14 trophies at a presentation night in Belfast. Another prized bird, valued at £2,000, is missing. Mr Williamson, 37, said yesterday: "Half my team has been wiped out and I suspect somebody jealous of my success was responsible. There was blood everywhere. It was an awful sight. I think the people responsible had planned to kill every bird but something must have frightened them. Ninety nine per cent of people in this business are fine, but obviously somebody had it in for me."

Mr Williamson, who has been named fancier of the year by the Northern Ireland Provisional Amalgamation, had posted men to guard the birds when he went to pick up his awards. "I feared something like this might happen because of my success," he said.

A police spokesman said: "We are treating this as a very serious incident."

Fred Russell, secretary of the Northern Ireland Provincial Amalgamation, a group of pigeon fancying clubs, said all owners would now be taking stricter security measures. He said: "Pigeon fancying is a very big sport here and people can win thousands of pounds in prize-money each season."

Inspectors recover £1.5bn tax

Inspectors brought in to clamp down on petty tax evasion recovered more than £1.5 billion last year. They recouped the equivalent of a penny off income tax by catching "ghosts", who do not exist on Inland Revenue files, and "moonlighters", who earn an undeclared second income. In the year to April the Inland Revenue raised £6.1 billion from audits and reviews.

Bridge's tight fit

The last piece of the central section of the £330 million second bridge across the River Severn was lifted into place yesterday from a computer-guided barge with about an inch to spare.

Kosher water

Britain's first kosher spring water, Minton Spring Water, is selling so well that it is to be exported to the Continent. The water has been approved by the United Synagogue, the main Orthodox body.

Tailor made

The home of the crime writer Dorothy L. Sayers has gone on the market for £325,000. The 12-bedroom Old Rectory at Christchurch, Cambridgeshire, provided the setting for *The Nine Tailors*.

Bicycles shut M8

A section of the M8 near Edinburgh was closed to traffic for a charity bicycle race. It coincided with a government announcement that it is to spend £5 million on Scottish cycle routes.

Revival of religion in schools creates teacher shortage

By DAVID CHARTER, EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

GROWING interest in Religious Education has turned it into an official "shortage subject" for which there are too few teachers. Bursaries are to be made available to attract trainee teachers to meet the increased popularity.

Changes to restore the subject's place in the curriculum have helped to reverse its decline, while greater openness to all faiths and less "indoctrination" have made it more relevant to pupils. A decade ago it was feared that RE was neglected and becoming a multi-faith mish-mash.

Teachers put much of the credit for the revival on the reorganised national curriculum, which made RE compulsory and said it should be "in the main" Christian, and on the inspection regime, which checks if schools provide adequate lessons. Many believe the introduction next September of a GCSE "short course" in RE, giving students the chance to gain a qualification

worth half a normal GCSE, will secure the revitalisation of the subject.

Chris Woodhead, the Chief Inspector of Schools, said the introduction of nationally agreed RE programmes last year was also contributing to its revival. The Government's two model syllabuses suggest children should spend half their time studying Christianity and half learning about the five other main faiths.

Ian Wragg, RE inspector at Ofsted, the school inspection agency, said: "What was once called the Cinderella subject is very much alive and kicking."

The 1992 Education Act ensured that RE was inspected alongside other subjects, which helped to put it back on the map. The reorganisation of the national curriculum will leave 5 per cent of teaching time at all ages for RE, enabling older pupils to take the GCSE short course and overcoming antipathy towards a subject which is

compulsory but does not lead to a qualification.

Lat Blaylock, executive officer of the Professional Council for RE, which represents RE teachers, said GCSE entries in the subject had shown a 22 per cent rise from 87,000 in 1990 to 106,000 this year.

He said: "Things are getting better for RE all the time... last year the Government funded extra training in RE for primary school teachers for the first time and now the Teacher Training Agency has said it will be considered a shortage subject. This shows that as schools are now seeking to meet their obligations they are looking for more RE teachers."

Mr Blaylock believes part of the reason for the subject's revival has been "a consensus that we are not about indoctrination in Christianity or in anything else. It is about pupils learning answers to their own questions that different faiths might provoke."



Two 15-year-olds helping to resolve a problem in one of the West Midlands schools where pupils have been trained in mediation skills

Children trained to make playground peace

By ADAM FRESKO

SCHOOLCHILDREN are being trained to mediate in playground arguments and prevent bullying. The scheme, under way at primary and secondary schools around Birmingham, involves pupils being taught by specialists to act as peacemakers.

As well as stopping fights in the playground, the scheme has led to a drop in truancy among children

intimidated by bullying. Sheila Hendley, project manager, said: "Mediators are nine and ten-year-olds and 15 to 16-year-olds. The problems in secondary schools are greater: you get problems with gangs and drugs."

"Headmasters have told me that where they used to have eight kids outside their door at lunchtimes and breaks they now don't have any." She said children "find it easier to talk to other children rather than to teachers."

It is cutting down on bullying and as a result there is less truancy. Parents are saying that their children are much better behaved at home."

In 1991, four schools recorded an average attendance figure of just over 81 per cent. In the 1993-94 school year the same schools' average attendance had risen to more than 88 per cent after introducing the scheme.

Alan Banter, deputy head of Highfield Primary School, said: "We

have 20 trained mediators here who work in teams. There has been a reduction in the number of serious incidents because small incidents are now being solved before they blow up."

"During breaktime the mediators sit under the mediation tree so other children know where to find them. Because we are dealing with younger children, they must see a teacher first so it can be decided if the problem is suitable for another child to sort out."

Fifth of assisted places awards 'are fraudulent'

By JOHN O'LEARY, EDUCATION EDITOR

LABOUR demanded an official investigation into the Assisted Places Scheme yesterday as headmasters admitted that up to one application in five is fraudulent.

The Prime Minister has promised to double the number of state-subsidised places at independent schools. Ministers are considering extending the scheme to preparatory schools. However, MPs are concerned that assisted places are going to children whose parents are too wealthy to qualify legitimately. "Creative" accounting and false declarations may be allowing thousands of applicants to slip through the net.

David Jewell, Master of Haileybury, in Hertfordshire, estimated that 20 per cent of applications for assisted places were incorrect. Neil Gamble, Headmaster of Exeter School, Devon, put the level of fraud at 10 per cent in the £100 million scheme.

Peter Kilfoyle, Labour education spokesman, said yesterday that the disclosures confirmed long-standing suspicions about the scheme and he called for an independent investigation. "We have suspected for a long time that the people who use the scheme are not those portrayed by the Government."

Parents have to make an

annual declaration of income to qualify for an assisted place. Those earning less than £9,500 are entitled to full remission of fees, but a sliding scale encompasses earnings of up to £25,000 where several children are involved.

The Education and Employment Department said 80 per cent of beneficiaries of the scheme earned less than the national average. A spokeswoman said ministers were satisfied that independent schools policed the scheme satisfactorily, but any evidence of abuse would be investigated.

The Independent Schools Information Service said that a working party had tightened the application process two years ago. "We would be surprised if the level of fraud was as high as 10 per cent. Bursars are used to dealing with people having difficulty in paying fees and are quite adept at assessing financial circumstances."

Gillian Shephard, the Education Secretary, will announce this month how the Government plans to double the size of the scheme. The 30,000 places have never been taken up fully, although most have been filled this year.

The favoured option is to extend the age range to children under 11.

Straw plans classes for parents of truants

By JILL SHERMAN
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

PARENTS of troublemakers would be required to attend classes in dealing with disruptive children under proposals being considered by Labour.

Jack Straw, the Shadow Home Secretary, is looking at proposals for parental training orders, under which the courts would direct parents to take classes if they felt youngsters were offending because of failings at home. He is assessing pilot schemes under which parents of truants attend 12 weeks of lessons held by charities. Under the proposals, parents would have to agree to attend classes — but if they consistently refused, their children could be taken into care in extreme cases.

Mr Straw is exploring ways of giving the police new powers to detain truants. He has met the Police Superintendents Association and is considering voluntary identity cards for schoolchildren. A child taking time off school would have to have his card signed by parents or a teacher. The police would be able to check the cards.

The moves are part of Tony Blair's determination to be tough on crime but also to move the focus on to the raising of children. Mr Straw argues that the media give too little attention to the subject, and too much to materialism and sex. "We want to encourage parents to take responsibility for their children," he said last night.



Loach: directed Europe's Film of the Year

British film wins prize

THE British director Ken Loach's film *Land and Freedom*, about an Englishman in the Spanish Civil War, has been named Film of the Year by the European Film Academy.

The academy, founded in 1991 to boost European films in the face of Hollywood competition, chose *La Haine* (Hatred), by the French director Mathieu Kassovitz, as best European film by a young director. The film, which examines tensions in the immigrant suburbs of Paris, has been a box-office triumph in French cinemas and is now showing around Europe.

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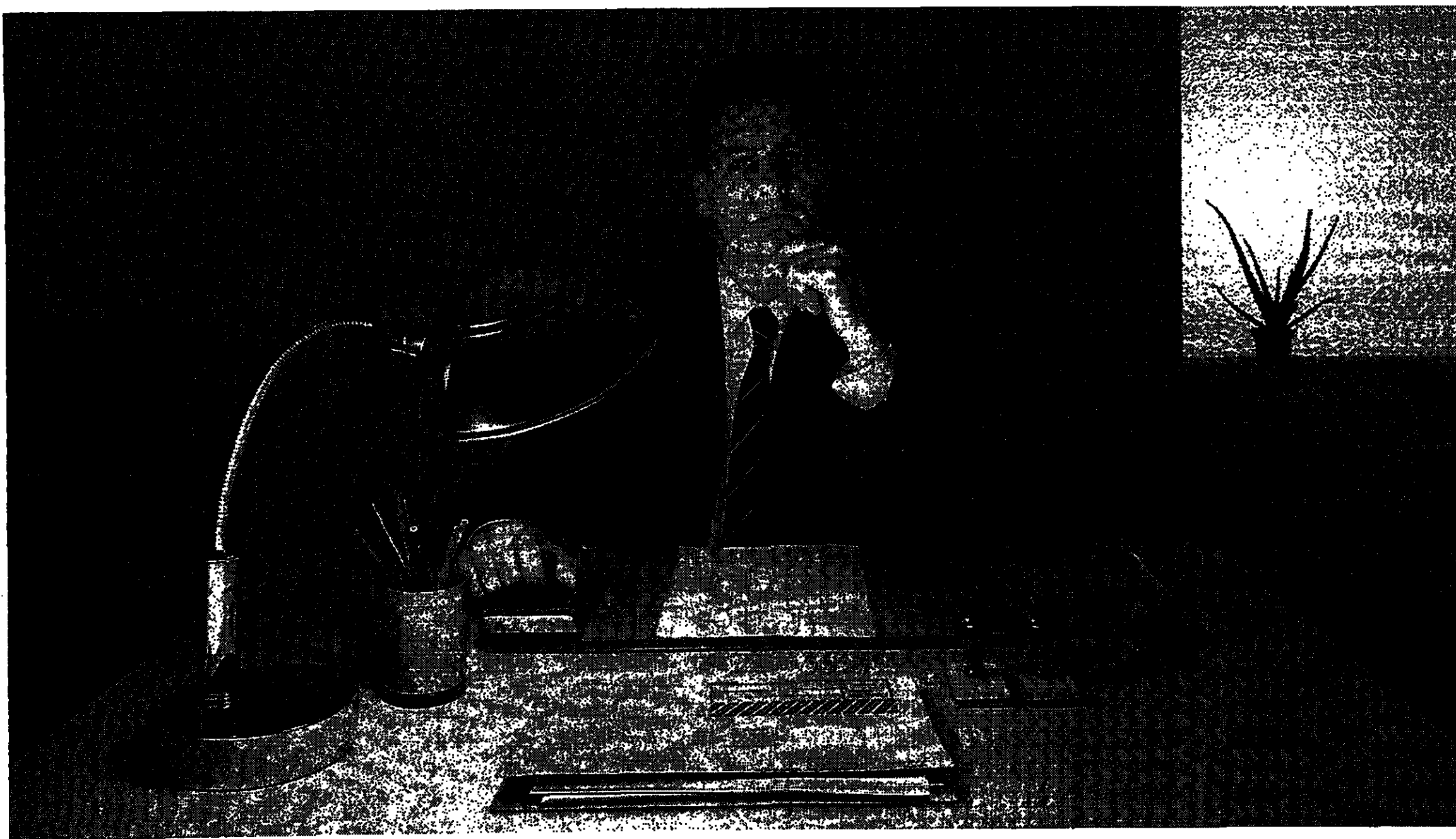
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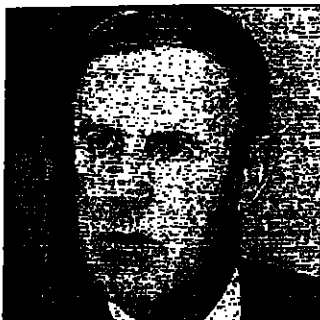
Derek Green, 55, is managing director of North West Water, which has 6.8 million customers in Lancashire, Merseyside, Greater Manchester and Cheshire. He earns an estimated £180,000 a year. Bills are an average £192, compared with £111 in 1989, the year of privatisation.



Green: 6.8m customers

YORKSHIRE

Trevor Newton, 51, is chairman of Yorkshire Water, which serves 4.5 million customers. Bills are an average of £204, up from £123 in 1989. After the company was criticised in the summer for leaks, hosepipe bans and ration plans, Mr Newton announced that he had not had a bath at home in three months.



Newton: bathtime ban

SOUTH WEST

William Fraser is managing director of South West Water, which has 1.5 million customers in Cornwall and Devon. The former oil industry executive has an annual pay and perks package of about £217,000. Bills are an average of £302 a year, the highest in the country, up from £146 in 1989.



A weekend walk on Roadford Reservoir, Devon. Despite the rain, South West Water said that restrictions would last over the winter

How official regulator detailed his complaints to company chiefs

A deluge of criticism over water

By NICK NUTTALL
ENVIRONMENT CORRESPONDENT

THE anger of the official water regulator is shown in the detail of his letters to the heads of three giant water companies, casting serious doubts over management abilities.

Ian Byatt, head of Ofwat, raises questions over standards on the environment, health and reliability. At South West Water, the managing director, William Fraser, is challenged on "your company's ability to manage its functions in an effective and prudent manner". The regulator's letter asks why the company has underinvested in the network and customer services "compared

with the expectations of the Secretary of State in 1989".

Concerns include failures on most aluminium standards at the Tamar water treatment works, performance targets on cutting interruptions in supply, and forecasts on cutting the number of customers "served by unsatisfactory sewage works".

Mr Byatt raises concerns over the handling of schemes to improve Cornish bathing water to European standards at Porthallow, Porthleven, Penzance and St Agnes.

At North West Water, Derek Green, the managing director, is challenged on claims by the

company that it is run well. The regulator says: "I am not convinced claimed efficiencies have been achieved."

The company has been ordered by the Department of the Environment's Drinking Water Inspectorate to tackle sewage contamination of drinking water supplies. Mr Byatt says: "These new undertakings cover water supplied to 11 per cent of North West's customers. The need to issue these should not have arisen. They indicate falling serviceability and a failure to maintain the base service provision."

Delays to the Wybersley water treatment broke agreements on aluminium levels, and the company had failed to meet agreed

targets to cut the number of homes with low pressure supplies. Mr Byatt says the supply situation in the wake of the summer's drought is "still giving rise to serious concern".

North West is accused of the highest leakage rate in Britain at 37 per cent, and the worst level of properties flooded by "blockages, collapses and pumping failures."

The company has an extensive programme to meet European and national environmental standards related to sewage, but remains one of the industry's highest polluters.

At Yorkshire Water, Trevor Newton, the chairman, is told that the plight of customers during the current drought

"raises serious questions about decisions taken by the company in the years leading up to this summer as well as the action or inaction in response to warning signs".

Other concerns include: failures to meet manganese metal limits covering six per cent of customers; water in the Batley zone and Edge Mount breaking aluminium and sewage standards; failures to meet targets on leakage, breaks in supply and low pressure problems.

Mr Byatt talks of "not just marginal but significant" failure to meet sewage standards. Sewage flooding of properties due to blockages and pump failures "indicates failing serviceability".

Christmas cuts threatened in Yorkshire

By PAUL WILKINSON

CHRISTMAS water cuts are imminent for 600,000 consumers in West Yorkshire as stocks in Pennine reservoirs continue to dwindle. The situation has prompted MPs to demand that the Government should call a state of emergency and bring in the Army.

Even a tanker operation, bringing 13.5 million gallons a day from the Northumbria region and from near the Humber is unlikely to halt the continuing decline in reserves for areas around Huddersfield and Halifax.

Only several days of heavy rain can stave off 24-hour rota cuts in areas where reservoirs are down to five weeks' supply. On Tuesday an Environment Department inspector will hear more than 230 objections against Yorkshire Water's request to introduce the cuts in the Calderdale and Kirkstall districts. A decision by John Gummer, the Environment Secretary, on the inspector's report is expected early next week and cuts could follow immediately.

Barry Sheerman, Labour MP for Huddersfield, has appealed to the Prime Minister to bring in the Army to secure supplies. He said: "In any other country this crisis would be regarded as a state of emergency and government intervention and compensation would be a priority."

Mr Sheerman called on Mr Major to set up an emergency cabinet committee, adding: "The effects on industry, education and the vulnerable members of our society make

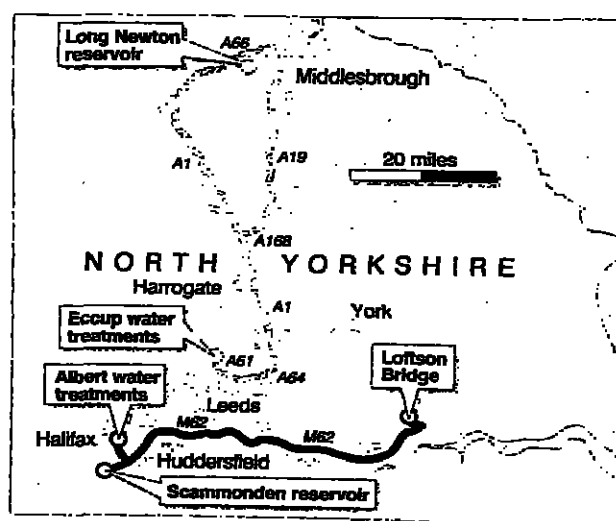
this an imminent national disaster. No responsible government can stand by and let one of the most productive centres of population and industry grind to a halt." He is being supported by other MPs with constituencies in the region.

Yorkshire Water has embarked on two huge transfer operations, each costing it about £1 million a week. A spokesman for the company, which made £125 million profit last year, said: "The cost is immaterial. Our priority is keeping the water flowing."

One operation involves buying water at cost from Northumbria Water and using 200 tankers to take it 60 miles from a reservoir at Long Newton, Cleveland, to a treatment works at Eccup, north of Leeds, where it can be fed into the Yorkshire Water grid.

The scheme will run in parallel with one that started nine weeks ago, in which a fleet of 200 tankers has been working 24 hours a day moving water 50 miles from the River Derwent at Lofton Bridge, near Selby, to Scammonden Water outside Huddersfield and to a treatment works in Halifax.

Churchgoers in Bradford, where water cuts might be imposed if reservoir levels continue to fall, held prayers for rain on Friday evening. The heavens promptly opened. Malcolm Neale, who led the service at Buttershaw Congregational Church, said: "We will carry on praying."



Man claims ankle tag led to assault

By ADAM FRESKO

A MAN who was electronically tagged after committing a series of driving offences has ripped the device from his ankle after being attacked when mistaken for a sex offender. He now says he would rather have been sent to jail.

Richard McGuinness, 23, was tagged for six months as part of a Home Office trial by magistrates in Reading, Berkshire, in October. He cut the tag off last week after visiting a pub in Reading where he was allegedly mistaken for Anthony Eslick, the first and only other man in the town to be tagged.

Eslick has convictions for

abducting a 12-year-old girl and for indecent exposure. McGuinness, who has spent five and a half years in prison for 16 offences ranging from burglary and theft to a variety of motoring offences, said that he contacted the Probation Service and Securicor, who were operating the system, to let them know what had happened.

He failed to appear before magistrates last week, as ordered, because of illness and is sure he will be sent to jail. He said: "I would rather have gone there in the first place. I would have done three months and then I would have been out."

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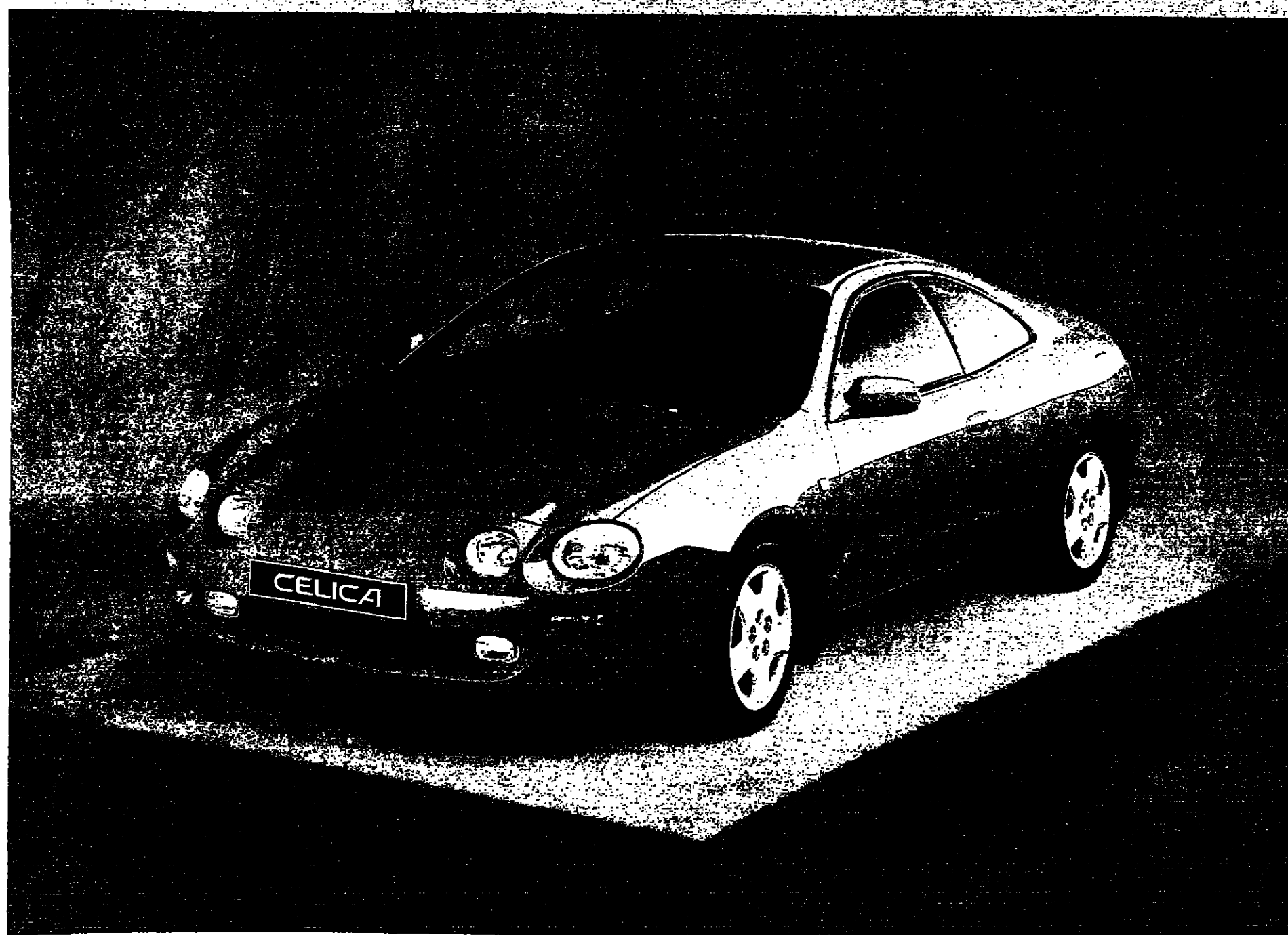
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Serb accord averts threat of war with Croatia

FROM STACY SULLIVAN IN ZAGREB

SERB leaders yesterday signed an agreement to hand back the last section of Croatia still in their hands, averting what many feared could lead to full-scale war between Serbs and Croats.

Under the agreement Eastern Slavonia, which was seized in 1991 by Serbs who did not want to live under Croatian rule when Yugoslavia split, will be governed by an international administration for one to two years before being handed back to Croatia. Croatia threatened to take back the small but strategic region by force if a deal on its return was not struck before the end of this month. The United Nations reported that hundreds of Croatian assault troops and heavy artillery had moved towards the front line last week. The Yugoslav Army reportedly massed troops and guns along the Croatian border as well, in preparation for a counterattack.

But yesterday's agreement paves the way for a peaceful return of the region. "For the first time in this conflict an issue has been solved by signature and not by a bullet," said Peter Galbraith, the US Ambassador to Croatia, who helped to broker the plan along with the UN mediator, Thorvald Stoltenberg.

The two sides had agreed to the basic principles for the return of Eastern Slavonia to Croatia on October 3 but disagreed about the length of the transitional period and implementation of the accord. The Serbs wanted a three-year transition period governed by the UN, and Croatia wanted a one-year transition administered by Nato. Sunday's deal, allowing for a one-year transition with a possible year-long extension if either side re-

quests it, leaves the nature of the implementation force up to the UN Security Council to decide.

The Serbs, who expelled the Croatian population from the territory in 1991, dropped their demand for a referendum to decide the fate of the region. Because they desperately want a peace agreement to end three years of economic sanctions that have crippled their economy, the Serbs had little choice. There is little doubt that Croatia, with its newly revamped army that seized Western Slavonia and the Krajina in surprise offensives earlier this year, would have acted on its threat, leaving Serbia with the option of fighting back and undermining the peace plan, or retreating.

□ **Belgrade:** The top two military and political Bosnian Serb leaders have agreed to relinquish power once an American-sponsored peace deal is signed, in exchange for not being handed over to a war crimes tribunal, according to reports here yesterday. The influential *NIN* weekly said that President Milosevic had reached agreement with Radovan Karadzic and Lieutenant General Ratko Mladic for their "quiet departure".

The two have been indicted for war crimes by an international tribunal in The Hague in The Netherlands. As a result, they are not attending Balkan peace talks at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base near Dayton, Ohio. Mr Milosevic, the Bosnian Serbs' mentor, is negotiating on their behalf. Bosnian Muslim leaders said they would not accept a peace deal that left the two men in place. (AP)

Letters, page 21



Mata Hari: Dutch cabaret artist who passed allied secrets to the Germans during the First World War



The execution of Mata Hari: "She had courage," said Maurice Halbin, a member of the firing squad when he was 19

Awards stir memories of a femme fatale

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN PARIS

THE only surviving member of the firing squad that executed the celebrated spy Mata Hari was awarded the *Légion d'honneur* last weekend, but French veterans groups say hundreds of deserving First World War veterans have been denied the decoration as a result of bureaucratic delays and missing records. France has pledged to award the *Légion d'honneur* to all eligible survivors of the 1914-18 War and last weekend 1,355

former soldiers received the award at ceremonies to mark the seventy-seventh anniversary of Armistice Day.

Almost 5,000 French veterans of that war, aged between 94 and 109, are still alive and many say they have been unfairly missed off the list.

Maurice Halbin, 97, was just 19 years old when he was chosen at random to serve on the 12-man firing squad which executed Mata Hari in 1917.

Mata Hari was a cabaret dancer in Paris who extracted secrets from her

many lovers among the allied forces before passing them on to the Germans. At the age of 41 the spy, code-named agent 121, was condemned to death and executed near Paris at dawn.

"She had courage," M Halbin recalled last week. "Smiling, she refused to wear a blindfold before the firing squad. Then she made a little sign to us with her hand. We fired. I believe—I hope—that I had the only blank bullet in the firing squad." Three weeks after the execution, M Halbin left for the front.

Vote on Iran is blow to Kinkel

FROM ROGER BOYES IN BONN

KLAUS KINKEL, the German Foreign Minister, denied yesterday that he was retiring after a humiliating parliamentary defeat for the Government, which reportedly left Helmut Kohl, the German Chancellor, furious.

The rebellion by some 50 deputies from Herr Kohl's coalition was over an official invitation to Ali Akbar Velayati, the Iranian Foreign Minister. The German leader has rarely been the victim of such a huge protest from his own ranks, and the defeat left Herr Kinkel's position seriously weakened. Analysts are now expecting Herr Kinkel to be moved in a Cabinet reshuffle.

"The coalition has deserted me. I can't work as Foreign Minister on this basis," he said after the vote on Friday. The source of the problem is Germany's policy of "critical dialogue" with Iran. While Britain and the United States are considering tougher sanctions against Iran to prevent the country gaining nuclear potential, Germany claims that the Tehran regime is best influenced through regular dialogue. To that end, Dr Velayati was invited to Bonn this week to give the keynote

speech to an Islamic conference. Guests were invited from throughout the Middle East, but significantly no senior European Union politicians were due to attend.

German MPs considered Tehran's description of the assassination last week of Yitzhak Rabin, the Israeli Prime Minister, as "just punishment of God" sufficient grounds to withdraw the invitation to Dr Velayati.

The immediate effect has been the embarrassing postponement of the conference. The medium-term effect will probably be a hardening of policy towards Iran. But a byproduct of the vote will be on the long-term stability of Herr Kohl's Government. His ability to mobilise his troops is now coming under question. On the delicate issue of European Monetary Union he has the backing of only 30 per cent of his party, according to the latest opinion polls.

□ **Wall trial:** Egon Krenz, East Germany's last hardline Communist leader, goes on trial for manslaughter today as prosecutors begin an ambitious effort to jail East Berlin leaders for refugees' deaths at the Berlin Wall. (Reuters)

Russians rally to old-style Communist

FROM THOMAS DE WAAL IN KURSK

THE question for Gennadi Zyuganov, leader of the Communist Party, the front-runner in elections for the Russian parliament next month, is not whether he will win, but by how much.

Kursk, an industrial city of half a million people in the "red belt" near the Ukrainian border, is natural territory for his party. Speaking to a mostly elderly audience, Mr Zyuganov immediately attacked the Government by summoning up memories of a famous tank battle at Kursk in 1943. "How can it be that a huge country which destroyed the fascist armada is breaking up before our eyes?" he asked.

The audience was enthusiastic. "We really used to live better," said Nikolai Yemel'yanov, a veteran from the

battle. He now receives a pension of £30 a month. "How could we believe that at the end of our lives, our pensions would only be enough for bread and water?"

Here, the election looks to be a straight fight between Vladimir Zhirinovskiy's extreme nationalist Liberal Democratic Party and the Communists, with economic reformers lagging far behind.

Alla Ryabitsova, a young office clerk, voted for Mr Zhirinovskiy last time but said he had now run out of ideas. "There is nothing to expect from [President] Yeltsin anymore," she said. "Under the Communists we lived better. I only have hope in them."

Mr Zyuganov can claim much of the credit for the revival of the Communist Party in the last two years. The former chemistry teacher, 51, is a politician in the old Soviet



Zyuganov: restored party's fortunes

style. He took over the leadership in February 1993 when Mr Yeltsin lifted a banning order, and immediately started to marginalise the dozens of other pro-Communist groups.

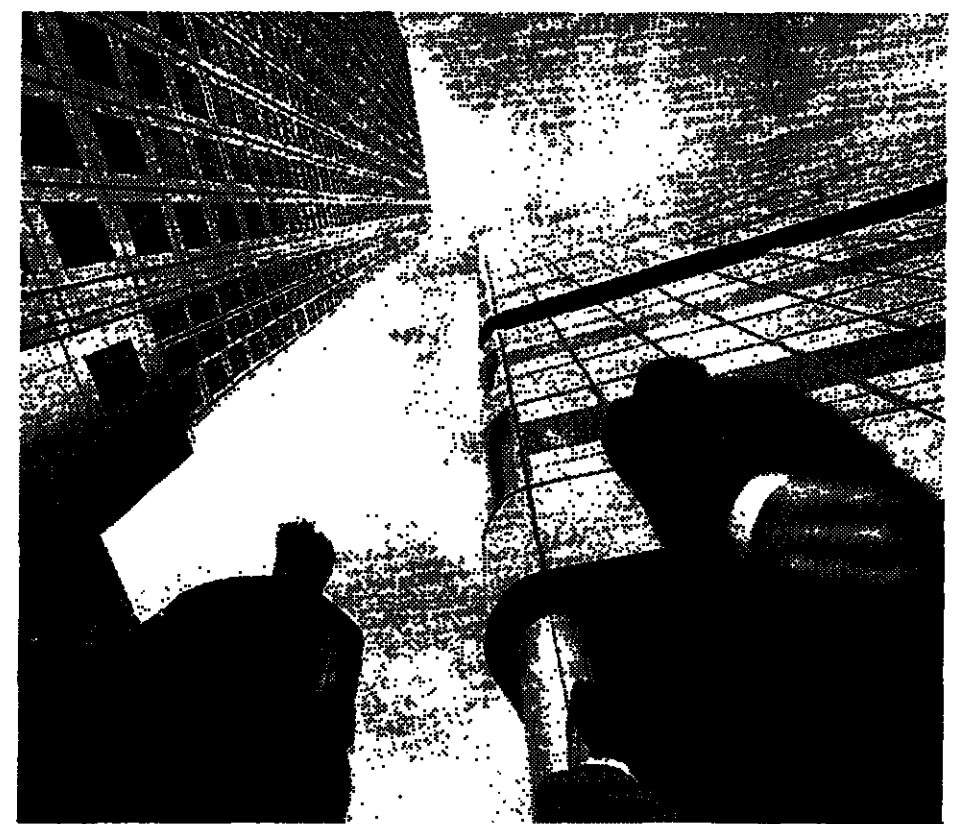
The Communist Party now

claims to be Russia's largest party with a membership of over 500,000 people. In the pursuit of electoral success, it has endorsed multiparty democracy and the free market. "He is a realist," Valeri Solovet, a political analyst who has just completed a book on the Communist Party, said.

Mr Zyuganov said yesterday that "relations will be good with the West". He added: "Foreign investment is not at risk... The Communist Party will not renationalise successful enterprises. If we start to take everything back tomorrow, shooting will break out."

But by the end of his day in Kursk, Mr Zyuganov had slipped back into the old rhetoric, praising Lenin and Stalin for building the state "which threw back the fascist military". The pensioners and war veterans cheered loudly.

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The £1,200 prize (*SHANK*) was won by Mrs A Lovell of Reading, Berks. The £200 prize (*WAGON*) was shared by Mr R Short of East Forsley, Surrey and Mr C Farmer of Sawbridgeworth, Herts.

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Military regimes put on notice to restore democracy

FROM MICHAEL MUNRO IN AUCKLAND

THE Commonwealth has indicated that its new system for dealing with rogue states will be applied sparingly, but The Gambia and Sierra Leone will be in the firing line if they do not take steps towards restoring democratic rule.

The two African countries have been deemed officially, along with Nigeria, as "errant states" after the military seized power. The decision was in line with the Commonwealth's commitment to democratic principles stated in the 1991 Harare Declaration.

After the decision at the Commonwealth heads of government meeting on Saturday to suspend Nigeria's membership of the group after the military regime's execution of nine activists, an action plan was approved for dealing with

ROGUE STATES

countries that violate Commonwealth principles. The Gambia was the only Commonwealth country represented at the meeting in New Zealand that did not support Nigeria's suspension.

Under the graduated measures, the Secretary-General of the Commonwealth would appoint an envoy or a group of foreign ministers, drawn from eight countries, to "assess the nature of the infringement" if the group's rules on democracy were violated. The group would recommend measures for collective Commonwealth action aimed at a swift restoration of democracy.

The Gambia has been a military state since Captain

Yahya Jammeh seized power in a bloodless coup in July last year. There is a ban on political activity, in addition to restrictions on press freedom, and alleged human rights abuses are reported regularly. Sierra Leone, too, has been under the control of the armed forces since a coup in 1992. Although Captain Valentine Strasser has announced that he would call elections in February, observers say that such an exercise will be difficult to stage amid a raging civil war. Concerns have also been expressed about a trend towards anti-democratic behaviour and human rights abuses in Kenya.

Jim Bolger, the New Zealand Prime Minister and meeting chairman, said: "We would hope that we can assist Commonwealth members who find themselves in difficulty so that in the future, it would not be necessary to move to suspension or, in the extreme cases, to expulsion."

The Commonwealth leaders did not take lightly the decision to suspend Nigeria. There had been deep concern about the processes followed in the trial involving the country's Ogoni tribe, and the subsequent failure to heed calls for clemency for Ken Saro-Wiwa and eight other activists who were executed on Friday. But officials said some heads of government were shaken by the pace of events on Saturday and would be unwilling to have to apply such measures so readily again.

□ **New member:** Mozambique was admitted yesterday into the Commonwealth as "a unique and special case". Mr Bolger said its entry marks a precedent for the Commonwealth because its existing members all have former colonial links with Britain.

Mr Bolger said Mozambique was a special case because it was surrounded by Commonwealth members, and that its application was supported by other southern African countries. (*Reuters*)

Matthew Parris, page 20
Leading article, page 21
Graham Searjeant, page 46



Chief Tom Ikimi, the Nigerian Foreign Minister, leaving Queenstown, New Zealand yesterday after the Commonwealth leaders' weekend retreat at a luxury resort

Last words: 'Lord, take my soul, the struggle continues'

BY OUR FOREIGN STAFF

FIVE attempts were needed to hang Ken Saro-Wiwa, the Nigerian writer. Lagos newspapers reported yesterday. They reported his last words as "Lord take my soul, but the struggle continues."

According to the papers, Saro-Wiwa was the first of the nine Ogoni activists to be hanged in the southern oil port of Port Harcourt. One Lagos daily, *AM News*, said the hangman made four failed attempts to kill the writer. At one point, it reported, Saro-Wiwa asked his executioners: "Why are you

THE EXECUTION

people treating me like this? Which type of country is this?"

Only hours after the military regime upheld the death sentences on Wednesday, nine coffins were moved to the Port Harcourt prison.

The newspapers said that the junta wanted the executions to take place immediately but later found that Port Harcourt, which had held no executions since Nigeria's independence from Britain in 1961, did not have the necessary equipment. On Thursday, executioners were flown

to Port Harcourt from the northern Muslim city of Sokoto. They took rooms in a hotel and awaited their task.

According to the newspapers, soldiers went to the home of a prison official at about 3am on Friday, and ordered him to work. Two hours later, Saro-Wiwa and his eight compatriots were roused from their cells at an army camp. They were told they were being taken to the Port Harcourt prison, and it was suggested the camp might be attacked by Ogoni youths. At the jail, the nine were herded into a room and shackled.

Cosy club forced to get tough with dictators

BY MICHAEL BINYON, DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

THE hanging of Ken Saro-Wiwa has done more to galvanise the Commonwealth into a real enforcement of its proclaimed ideals than any pious declarations on good government and gentlemen's agreements to express criticism sotto voce.

For the first time, the Commonwealth has agreed punitive measures to be enforced against rogue states. It has made explicit its abhorrence of all military regimes. It has drawn up a formal mechanism for suspending and even expelling nations that flout its values. And it has convinced even the more reluctant, such as South Africa, that there are limits to quiet diplomacy.

The outcome will significantly change the atmosphere inside the club. First, it will reassure public opinion in the older democracies that justice is colour-blind, and that no concessions on essential human rights are being made. This is important to halt the slide into cynicism over the governments of some, mainly African, member states — sentiments that were eating away at British commitment to, and political interest in, the Commonwealth.

Second, the changes will instil new awe and respect into countries near the thresholds of Commonwealth tolerance. The Gambia, the only country not to support Nigeria's suspension, knows it could suffer the same condemnation unless its opportunist junta outlines a realistic timetable for a swift return to democracy.

Sierra Leone, with its timetable for elections, has also been put on guard. And warnings to President Moi of Kenya about the slide into authoritarianism and the sup-

DISCIPLINE

pression of basic freedoms will now carry more weight.

Although the Commonwealth leaves many British members indifferent, membership is of political importance, especially in Africa. As with the Council of Europe, membership is a yardstick of democratic respectability.

This lesson is especially important for aspiring members. Cameroon, which has just joined, has been warned it has some way to go in ensuring proper democratic guarantees for the anglophone minority, and the new rules will give this added weight.

Third, the code's adoption will make the position of the Commonwealth secretariat, and especially of Chief Emeka Anyaoku, less ambiguous. In the run-up to the Auckland meeting, no one knew how to convey a warning of possible suspension to General Sani Abacha, because such a mechanism did not exist. There were vague hopes that Chief Anyaoku would not invite the Nigerian leader, but he had no authority to do so.

By avoiding explicit talks of sanctions and further aid cuts and by giving Nigeria time to speed up its proposed return to democracy, the Commonwealth has avoided the other danger: lurching from the informal meeting of old friends into a finger-pointing court of human rights.

General Abacha wanted to intimidate fighters for democracy in Nigeria. But with last week's nine hangings, he has strengthened the Harare principles of pluralism and human rights. He has given Saro-Wiwa a moral victory from the grave.

ADVERTISEMENT

Aristocrat arrested for involvement in Almera disappearances

Disgraced Lord was 'just lackey' to Nissan heist's Mr. Big

BY MICHAEL BIRNBAUM, QC

Judicial travesty whose verdict was preordained

AMID the welter of protest over the execution of Ken Saro-Wiwa and eight others, it has gone almost unnoticed that there were two trials and that out of 15 defendants tried by the Civil Disturbances Special Tribunal in Port Harcourt, six were acquitted. Do the acquittals show that, contrary to popular belief, the tribunal made a genuine effort to do justice?

In March I went to the trials on behalf of the Bar Human Rights Committee and the Law Society. At a meeting with the three members of the tribunal's chairman, Justice Ibrahim Adu, assured me that they would apply the Nigerian Constitution. They would also require the prosecution to prove its case to the ordinary standard.

These were hollow claims. In June, the Article 19 rights group published my report *Fundamental Rights Denied*. Its main thrust was that the trials were a deliberate violation of the defendants' constitutional rights to trial by an independent and impartial court, to adequate facilities for their defence and to appeal. I also published a detailed analysis of the prosecution witnesses' statements and pointed out the weaknesses of the case.

Witnesses alleged that Saro-Wiwa and other leaders of the Movement for the Survival of the Ogoni People (Mosop) had incited violence against their more conservative opponents, the Vultures.

On May 21, the Vultures held a meeting in the village of Giokoo. Police Inspector Hasso stopped Saro-Wiwa's car at a crossroads about a mile from Giokoo. Two witnesses, Charles Danwi and Nanyone Nkpa, claimed that Saro-Wiwa told his supporters in the Ogoni language to "deal with" the Vultures. The Vultures were attacked during a riot in which four Ogoni chiefs were hacked to death. Saro-Wiwa, Mitee and Kiobel were accused of inciting their 12 co-defendants to murder.

The case against the 12 was based entirely on identification evidence. Although some

LEGAL VIEW

had been identified as rioters, there was very little evidence that any had participated in the actual killings. Some of the identification begged belief. For example, two fishermen who in their first statements made no claim to have seen any of the killings later purported to identify a number of the killers. There was no evidence that any of the 12 had even been present either at any Mosop rally or to hear the "deal with" incitement. Whether Saro-Wiwa had said anything at all provocative at the junction was open to the gravest doubt.

In February 1995 Mr Danwi and Mr Nkpa withdrew their statements, claiming they had been bribed. They swore affidavits naming about a dozen other prosecution witnesses who had either taken or offered money and jobs in return for perjured evidence. On 21 February, the defence counsel, Gani Fawehinmi, read out Mr Danwi's affidavit to the tribunal. Mr Justice Adu said it would be "premature" to consider it. Neither Mr Danwi nor Nkpa Mr gave evidence.

It is plain the tribunal had no intention of doing anything to investigate the possibility that the whole case was tainted by corruption. Last week it gave detailed reasons in support of the verdicts. Mr Justice Adu ruled that it did not have to apply the ordinary Nigerian law of murder: it was enough if the killings "arose" from the conduct or action of a defendant. Since Mosop had incited violence and caused a "civil disturbance" in the course of which men were killed, any Mosop leader could be convicted of all four murders. This guilt-by-association argument was complemented by an almost complete reversal of the burden of proof.

These dishonest rulings could only have been given by a tribunal seeking to achieve a preordained decision. The acquittals were cosmetic.

LORD WORDINGHAM, heir to a £3 billion fortune, has been arrested for his involvement in the recent spate of Almera disappearances that have been sweeping the country.

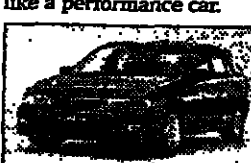
Police believe that the Lord is just one of the wealthy aristocrats recruited by the mastermind behind the operation, the notorious Mr. Big. "He was basically just a lackey," a spokesman told reporters. "Mr. Big has friends in very high places over whom he exerts an inordinate amount of influence."

Police frogmen are preparing to dredge the lake on the Lord's country estate in case any of the missing Almeras have been dumped there. Over 6,000 are still missing, including those which disappeared in the multimillion pound heist in the Bay of Biscay.

The Lord, a keen racing driver, lived his jet set lifestyle to the full. Only last week he was snapped in the Riviera surrounded by some of Europe's wealthiest beauties. Although he

mixes in fashionable circles there is no evidence to suggest that he has any Royal connections.

Just why the Lord was willing to risk so much is unclear. Although there is speculation that he and the other Almera abductors resented the fact that ordinary people could afford a car as luxurious, comfortable and technologically advanced as the Almera. The Almera's highly innovative Multilink Beam Suspension, for example, makes it drive like a performance car.



Frogmen to dredge lake for missing Almeras

Nissan have stressed that new Almeras are still readily available from a secret location under high security guard. Any member of the public wishing for more information should call 0345 66 99 66.



Lord Wordingham outside his Belgravia home yesterday

Boycott threatens Shell gas project

BY CARL MORTISHED

THREATS of a boycott of Nigerian oil are raising questions about a £2.5-billion liquefied natural gas project in which Shell has a 24 per cent interest.

Shell and its joint-venture partners, Elf of France, Agip of Italy and the Nigerian National Petroleum Company, had been expected to make a decision at a board meeting this week on whether or not to go ahead with the

the project to go ahead because gas reserves will last long after the oil runs out. Gas is presently burnt from the well head at the rate of 1.1 billion cubic feet a day. But once the project is built, this will be shipped in liquid form to France, Spain and Italy.

The production and export of crude oil from the Niger delta is a huge source of profit for Shell, which made after-tax profits of £1.4 billion from global oil exploration last year. Nigeria accounted for 12 per cent of the 2.2 million barrels pumped every day from Shell wells worldwide.

Shell yesterday described allegations that it was responsible for environmental devastation in Nigeria as false. The company blamed sabotage for oil spills in Ogoniland and accused campaigners of distorting the facts. "Over 60 per cent of the oil spills in the Ogoni area have been the direct result of sabotage, usually linked to claims for compensation," the company said.

BUSINESS

construction of an LNG plant at the mouth of the Niger. Yesterday a spokesman said the decision would be made before the end of the year.

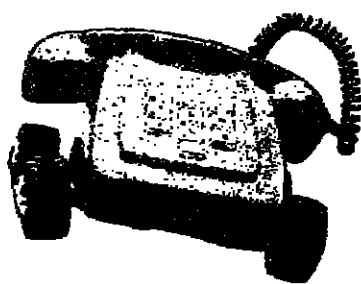
The project has suffered a last-minute setback with the decision by the World Bank not to proceed with a \$100-million (£62.9-million) loan. The bank's private lending arm could not secure the support of its member states. Nigeria desperately needs

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Cosy club fore to get tough with dictators

Pressure to seize Nigerian assets intensifies

By Sam Kiley
Africa Correspondent

THE Commonwealth's suspension of Nigeria will have no effect on the behaviour of the military junta ruling 90 million people from its new capital in Abuja.

Opposition groups inside Nigeria know from experience that there is only one way to temper the behaviour of a regime which televises executions, shoots peaceful demonstrators and ignores judicial norms: to hit the rulers in their pockets.

Although America, Nige-

SANCTIONS

ria's biggest oil client, and Britain have so far ruled out sanctions against Nigerian oil exports, Ken Wiwa, the son of the executed activist, yesterday quoted a letter written by his father earlier this year: "Nigerian oil is what sustains the Nigerian military dictators, enabling them to survive even though they collect no taxes and misgovern in every sense of the word."

The arms embargo could easily be side-stepped, but there is unlikely to be any rush to do so since Britain is still owed hundreds of millions of pounds for Jaguar jets delivered years ago.

Oil and drugs have sustained Nigeria's military rulers since the 1983 coup led by General Ibrahim Babangida and his successors. Very little of the earnings from oil exports worth about £5 billion find their way into Nigeria's formal economy. Nigeria's hospitals, roads, schools and utilities are in a hopeless shambles as a result.

General Sani Abacha and his henchmen use the money to buy opponents and to keep their own military officers sweet. "Promotion to colonel or garrison commander is a passport to riches, providing you play ball with the regime and abandon any kind of



Ken Wiwa, son of the executed writer Ken Saro-Wiwa, at Heathrow yesterday. He would not be drawn on the question of an arms boycott of Nigeria

professionalism," one senior Nigerian army officer complained.

Since 1985 Nigeria has been identified by the US Drug Enforcement Agency as one of the biggest handling points for cocaine and uncut heroin from the Far East reaching the West. "The same characters who are running the country are running the drugs trade, or their close family members are," said an agency official in Lagos. Femi Falana, a leading human rights lawyer who represented Saro-Wiwa in the

early stages of his trial, but abandoned the case after deciding he would only lend illegitimate proceedings credibility by his presence, said that the only way to force democracy and respect for human rights on the Abacha regime was to seize its members' personal assets held overseas, and boycott Nigeria's oil exports. "It should be easy enough to freeze their assets," he said, adding: "Boycotting oil would not affect Nigerians, because they don't see the benefits of it anyway." How-

ever John Major has been uncertain on this.

"The judgment we have to make on things like that is whether within the Nigerian economy they would cause worse unemployment, worse poverty, worse misery and worse starvation than is already being suffered," Mr Major said.

A Shell spokesman said yesterday the company employed 5,000 people in Nigeria. Another 20,000 would be indirectly affected by a boycott.

Violence casts pall over election antics in Algeria

FROM MARK HUBAND IN AIN TEMOUCHENT, WESTERN ALGERIA

JOKING with the audience, Sheikh Mafhoud Nahnah ignored the security implications of the gathering dusk and was rewarded as an old man in the front row hurled a flood of compliments at Algeria's portly and smiling conservative Islamist leader.

A red sunset had flooded the elegant, tree-lined streets by the time the security police with Uzi sub-machineguns closed the door of the sheikh's car in this small town 300 miles south-west of Algiers.

It was the fourth time in a few hours that Sheikh Nahnah, the 53-year-old leader of the Hamas Islamic party and contender for the title of Algeria's first democratically elected president, had stopped his cavalcade on a pre-election tour that included walking through markets, shaking hands and kissing babies. All would have seemed normal were the election on November 16 not the first step of the military-backed Government's solution to the crisis which has racked Algeria and left 40,000 dead since 1992.

When they are confronted by all the candidates, there is a tangible wariness on the part of the crowds which casts a sinister pall over the forced jollity of the walkabouts. At the last, legislative, election in 1991, only 45 per cent voted. Years of one-party rule had made elections meaningless.

In 1992 the army seized power in order to deny the Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) its anticipated presidential election victory. The current wariness is partly explained by the wish not to show political colours in the street, stemming from fear of the armed Islamic militants. Voter apathy and cynicism are other factors.

But inside the meeting halls doubts about the validity of the election evaporate. The absence from the poll of key parties which have boycotted the election, and the FIS,

Paris: Thousands of expatriate Algerians flocked to vote in France yesterday, after chaotic scenes on Saturday when dozens were injured among throngs trying to vote at consulates in Lille, Lyons, Nice and Marseilles. Tight police security in Paris because of a wave of bomb attacks since July, resulted in orderly queues forming at polling stations in the capital. (Reuters)

which is banned, has not dimmed enthusiasm.

Sheikh Nahnah represents the unarmed face of Islam. The deputy leader of his party, Mohammed Bouslimane, had his throat cut by the armed Islamists in 1993.

In a 60-page election programme the sheikh confronts the omnipresent issue of national identity by saying it is bound up in Islam. Other candidates, all of whom are Muslims, argue that 33 years of autocracy mean the Algerian identity has been lost and that the current political process is a way of re-inventing the country.

"If the elections are not rigged, you the Algerian people have already chosen the winner," he told the audience at Ain Temouchent's



Zeroual: thought likely to retain the presidency

cinema, crammed with more than 1,000 people. The veiled women on the balcony, separated from the men in the stalls, whooped with approval while the men roared. "Islam is the religion of all Algerians, and it alone can reunite the country, and November 16 is the hour of total change," the sheikh told them, reflecting his view that the crisis is the result of bad government and not religious conflict.

While there have been no reliable opinion polls, Sheikh Nahnah is expected to take second place to the incumbent President, retired General Liamine Zeroual. The Hamas leader is expected to take a large share of the vote for the banned FIS. His election programme blames the current crisis on the political system of which President Zeroual is regarded as the last bastion, despite widespread economic changes since he came to office.

"The cultural and spiritual void created by the policies followed up until now have left the field open for all sorts of deviancy, producing a spirit similar to that of the inquisition, with its accusations of apostasy, heresy and a lack of piety," says the sheikh, in condemnation of the Islamic radicals, whose political leaders are as much his enemies as those of the secular parties.

Clear distinctions between the political goals of the banned FIS and Hamas are hard to find. Under Sheikh Nahnah, democracy would be subservient to a high Islamic council, charged with guarding Algeria's Islamic character. French would no longer be a national language with Arabic. Women would be expected to conform to Islamic codes, although their educational and professional opportunities would be expanded. Mosques would play a key role in the administration, and the Sharia would be the basis of the legal system.

Peking anxious to select Tibetan leader

FROM JONATHAN MIRSKY
IN HONG KONG

CHINA is poised to pick its own Panchen Lama, Tibet's second-most sacred monk after the Dalai Lama, despite opposition among 75 senior monks it has assembled in Peking.

The monks want Peking to include the choice of the Dalai Lama, Tibet's exiled spiritual and temporal leader, to its shortlist of three candidates. In May, the Dalai Lama identified Gedhun Choekhi Nyima, a six-year-old boy, as the eleventh incarnation of the Panchen Lama. The tenth Panchen Lama, who died in 1989, had colluded with China in 1950, but at the time of his death spoke out about the anguish in the Tibetan autonomous region.

When the Dalai Lama made the announcement, Chadrrel Rinpoche, the head of the search committee for the new "soul boy", was taken into Chinese custody, ostensibly for medical treatment. In September, he was removed as the head of the Tashilumpo, the Panchen Lama's traditional seat of power.

Last week, the Chinese-sponsored newspaper *Tibet Daily* charged that unnamed monks — understood to be from Tashilumpo — had colluded with the Dalai Lama to choose a Panchen Lama. It said China's State Council had laid down two principles for picking the Panchen Lama: "Religious rules and historical systems must be followed ... and upholding patriotism and the leadership of the Chinese Communist Party."

The most peculiar aspect of Peking's charge against the Tashilumpo monks, in addition to the accusation that they had been in contact with the Dalai Lama, is the suggestion that they are opposed to the final selection of the new incarnation by picking a name from a golden urn. If so, this is because they do not recognise Peking's three candidates.

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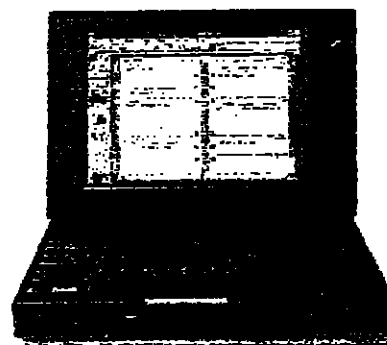
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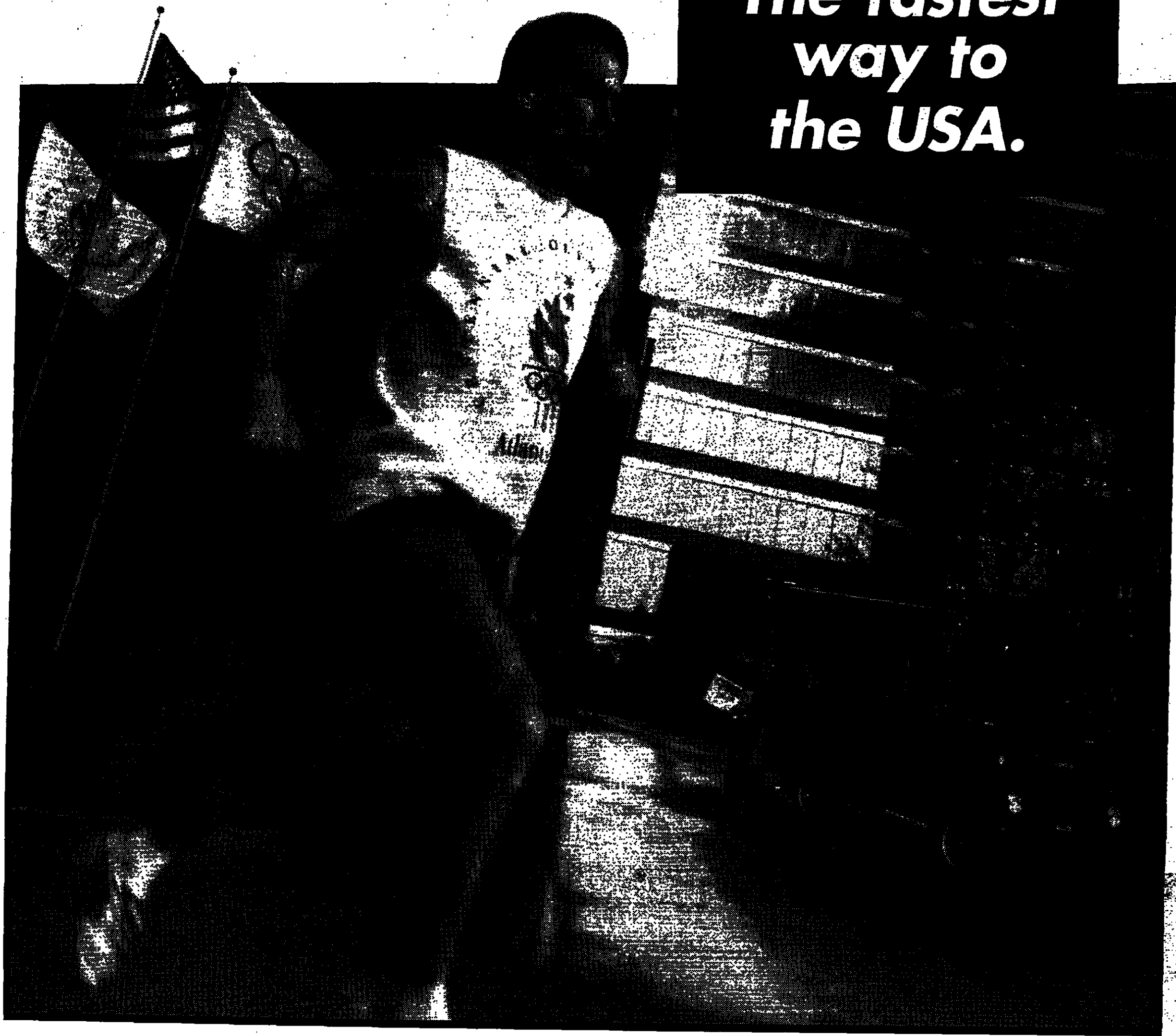
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THE TIMES

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American budget impasse persists as shutdown nears

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

NEWT GINGRICH, the House Speaker, yesterday called on President Clinton to cancel his trip to an Asian-Pacific economic summit in Japan this week as an indefinite shutdown of the federal Government from midnight tonight looked increasingly inevitable.

Congressional Republicans and the White House spent the weekend trading insults, accusations and declarations of their determination to stand firm, but made no discernible progress towards resolving the budgetary impasse that is depriving the Government of the funds it needs to operate.

Scheduled talks were cancelled because the two sides could not agree on who should

participate, and a seven-minute telephone call between Mr Clinton, Mr Gingrich and Robert Dole, the Senate leader, achieved nothing.

Separately yesterday Mr Gingrich all but ruled out a presidential bid, saying he would probably lose a "personality race" with President Clinton and the chances of him running were "very, very slim".

The fundamental budget issue is what is rapidly becoming a mighty battle of wills over the future size and role of the US Government. The Republicans are nearing completion of a budget that would top roughly \$1,000 billion (\$637 billion) off federal spending by 2002 in order to balance the

nation's books, roll back "big government" and return power to the states. Mr Clinton claims the plan would devastate vital social programmes while offering \$245 billion in tax breaks for the rich, and has vowed to veto it.

The budget is now six weeks overdue and a stopgap measure to keep the Government running expires at midnight. The Republican Congress has offered to extend it, but has attached numerous conditions designed to further Republican long-term budgetary goals that Mr Clinton will not accept.

Unless there is a last-minute breakthrough, all non-essential government services will cease tomorrow.

The Republicans consider their "revolution" is at stake. Mr Clinton sees this as a great opportunity to shed his image as a vacillator, and claims to be winning the battle for public opinion. A Time magazine poll yesterday showed 60 per cent believed the proposed Republican cuts go too far.

The House Speaker called Robert Dole "overwhelmingly the front-runner" for the Republican nomination, and a Newsweek poll showed that with Colin Powell now out of the race, 51 per cent of Republicans back the veteran Senate leader.



Dole: front-runner in Republican campaign

Gays' parents clash with US preachers

FROM QUENTIN LETTIS IN NEW YORK

PARENTS of homosexuals are in conflict with evangelists in America, accusing them of fomenting "abuse and violence against gay and lesbian people".

Emotive 30-second commercials placed by P-flag, a group of parents of homosexuals, have been shown on television in some Southern states and conservative Christians have threatened to sue stations that sell airtime for them.

The advertisements, incorporating shots of leading evangelists, claim that anti-gay rhetoric has led to a rise in homosexual suicides and assaults. One shows the mother of a gay man who was beaten to death in Texas. Her words are accompanied by aggressive sermons by two leading preachers, the Rev Jerry Falwell and the Rev Pat Robertson.

Mr Falwell is shown saying

that "God hates homosexuality" while Mr Robertson calls homosexuality "a sickness" and in the same breath mentions Adolf Hitler and Satanism. Mr Robertson's Christian Broadcasting Network says it will sue any television company that carries P-flag's commercials, claiming they wrongly suggest that he "advocates or promotes heinous crimes against gays or directly caused the suicide of one or more homosexual persons".

The parents' group chose to begin the campaign in the Southern cities of Tulsa, Atlanta and Houston "because they are heartland America". P-flag claims that 30 per cent of teenage suicides in America are homosexuals. A representative for the group said: "Middle Americans are not an intolerant lot. They do not realise the level of abuse and violence against gay people."

Shin Bet knew of plot to murder Rabin

BY OUR FOREIGN STAFF

ISRAEL'S Shin Bet security service acknowledged yesterday that it was told in advance of a plot to kill Yitzhak Rabin and was given a description that matched that of the assassin, Yigal Amir.

In a fax to media organisations, Shin Bet said authorities were told of the plot in June by a friend of Amir.

Mr Rabin's widow, Leah, yesterday urged Israelis to pursue her husband's quest for peace as she told a memorial rally of more than 200,000 people in Tel Aviv that his death would not be in vain.

It was an emotional return for the widow to the square where eight days earlier Mr Rabin was shot. Standing beneath a huge portrait of her late husband, she said: "This is where he was happy, this is where he met his death." Then, addressing Mr Rabin's bodyguards, she said: "Yitzhak ... never believed anything could happen to him. There is nothing you have to reproach yourselves for."

The square was officially renamed after the murdered Prime Minister by the Tel Aviv Mayor, Roni Milo.

Shimon Peres, the acting Prime Minister, promised yesterday to follow Mr Rabin's path to peace but attacked the "Devil's disciples" in Israel, which stood in the way. Mr Peres said Israel had no choice but to continue "so that the children who cried on [Mr Rabin's] grave will not have to shed a tear in the future". But, he added, there were "a lot of people on the edge of insanity who think they are God's messengers".

Police said yesterday that extremists held over the assassination also planned to kill Arabs to thwart the Israeli Prime Minister's peacemaking with Palestinians. Shin Bet, which has already been blamed for security lapses that left Mr Rabin open to



Leah Rabin, widow of the murdered Israeli Prime Minister, is comforted by her son, Yuval, at her husband's grave. His bodyguards were not to blame, she said

attack, said Shlomo Halevy, a schoolfriend of Amir, was told by a mutual friend that Amir planned to make an assassination attempt.

Mr Halevy told his army commander of the plot but did not reveal Amir's name or say that he knew him - pretending instead that he had overheard two men talking about the plot at a Tel Aviv bus station, Shin Bet said.

The Yediot Achronot daily newspaper said the information that Mr Halevy provided was turned over to Shin Bet,

but investigators did not press him for more details. After a superficial check, the agency decided to ignore the information, the newspaper said.

An Israeli security official said at the weekend that Israel and the United States plan to co-operate in closer surveillance of Jewish extremists in both countries.

Colette Avital, the Israeli Consul-General in New York, disclosed that right-wing Jewish groups in the United States were raising money for Amir.

At a tribute to Mr Rabin in London, Dr Jonathan Sacks, the leader of Britain's Jews, spoke of the shame he felt over the actions of extremist opponents of the peace process. Addressing 10,000 who had gathered at the Albert Hall, the Chief Rabbi called on religious leaders to heal the wounds in the heart of the Jewish people. "If we do not, I fear that the bullet that broke Yitzhak Rabin's body will enter the Jewish soul."

Photograph, page 24

WORLD SUMMARY

Sri Lanka rebel base captured

Colombo: Sri Lankan troops attacking the northern Tamil rebel stronghold of Jaffna have captured an underground base, security sources said yesterday. The Tamil Tigers are thought to have lost more than 250 guerrillas since the army resumed its push on Friday after a two-week lull. The army said it lost 15 men with 84 wounded.

In Colombo, hundreds were being questioned over Saturday's attacks by two suicide bombers, one of them a woman, in which 15 people died and more than 50 were wounded. Two suspects have been detained. (Reuters)

Dutch rule out Nato candidacy

Amsterdam: Hans van den Broek, a European commissioner, will not be put forward by The Netherlands as a compromise candidate to succeed Willy Claes as Secretary-General of Nato. "With the important EU inter-governmental conference coming up next year, we don't want to lose one of our most experienced representatives in an influential post," the Foreign Ministry said. (Reuters)

Avalanche toll

Kathmandu: The toll from a weekend avalanche in Nepal rose to 43 as 17 people, including a Canadian and three other tourists, were found in collapsed buildings in Manang and Panchathar districts. Thirteen Japanese died at Pangka, and about 50 trekkers were stranded. (Reuters)

Guatemala vote

Miami: A record number of parties competed in the first round of Guatemala's elections, hailed as the most peaceful in three decades of civil war and the most democratic since military rule began in 1954. Voter turnout was low despite a ceasefire.

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THEATRE

Diana Rigg returns to the National to play the title role in Brecht's *Mother Courage*
OPENS: Tomorrow
REVIEW: Thursday



OPERA

American director Peter Sellars stages Hindemith's powerful *Mathis der Maler* at Covent Garden
OPENS: Thursday
REVIEW: Saturday



BOOKS

A voice in the Diaspora: Rabbi Julia Neuberger writes *On Being Jewish*
IN THE SHOPS: Now
REVIEW: Thursday



FILMS

How do you top *Speed*? Keanu Reeves returns with *A Walk in the Clouds*
OPENS: Friday
REVIEW: Thursday

ARTS
TUESDAY TO
FRIDAY
IN SECTION 2

Want to hear a good joke? British sit-coms have finally got their thigh-slapping act together. Andy Lavender reports

Reviewing the situation

All being well, Bob Shepherd has just stepped off a plane clutching his passport to TV stardom: a souped-up, sure-fire-success situation comedy script. It will be a marvellous transformation. Shepherd is a struggling English comedy writer. He has had the odd piece on radio but has failed to elicit any chuckles from the mandarins of television comedy. So Channel 4's *Right in Reply* programme took Shepherd to Los Angeles, the Mecca of sit-com, to have his scripts doctor.

They do things differently in America. Where British comedies have one or two writers, the Americans have teams. Where British shows run for six weeks at a time, or 13 if they're really successful, the top American comedies might be in production for nine

months of the year with runs of at least 20 weeks.

Humphrey Barclay, one of Britain's leading independent sit-com producers — from *Doctor in the House* to *Desmonds* — is an admirer of the American way. "Their writers sit up all night, they have very short lives, they get fired at the drop of a hat," he says. "It's all extremely unpleasant, and they need several years in therapy afterwards. But the result on air can be terrific."

Everyone agrees that the Americans make some extraordinary sit-coms. Consider the clutch of programmes Channel 4 brought to our screens in the 1980s: *Cheers*, *The Cosby Show*, *The Golden Girls* and, most gloriously, *Roseanne*. "The greatest sit-coms are American," Barclay says. "When I'm sitting at a table with a writer, I often say:

"How would the Americans do it? How would they go to the heart of a story, the heart of a relationship, the heart of a comic character, and write it with both simplicity and sophistication?"

The other side of the coin, of course, is that we only see the cream of American sit-com. For every *Roseanne* there are scores of shows crass enough to make your toes curl. And what about Britain's best shows? Think of *George and Mildred*, *Fawlty Towers*, *Blackadder*, *Only Fools and Horses*, *Absolutely Fabulous*, *One Foot in the Grave*. Many American companies do.

Ever since *Till Death Us Do Part*, American producers have regularly tripped over to Britain, bought up programme ideas and formats and turned them into American shows. Two of Britain's most successful sitcoms of recent years are now in development with two of America's biggest comedy stars. *Roseanne* Barr has acquired *Absolutely Fabulous*, while Bill Cosby is considering an American version of *One Foot in the Grave*.

What's more, Cosby is thinking of using only the series' English writer, David Renwick. Who said the American system made for better comedy? *One Foot in the Grave* proves that a gifted writer can refine the elusive art of sit-com: here is a programme which is more than a little poignant, surreal and subversive, and entirely of its time. Perhaps Bob Shepherd should have swapped his airline ticket for the train fare to Renwick's house.

Shepherd's new script might still find a home, however, for British TV comedy looks set for a shake-up. Both main channels recently appointed new sit-com supremos. Geoffrey Perkins became the BBC's head of comedy in May, after stirring the waters as a successful comedy pro-



No contest (left) John Goodman and Roseanne Barr in America's *Roseanne*; (right) Brian Murphy and Yootha Joyce in Britain's *George and Mildred*



ducer of shows such as *Spitting Image*, *Friday Night Live* and *Harry Enfield's Television Programme*. You would think his idea of TV hell would be *The Good Life*, followed by *2point4 Children*. You would be wrong. Sit-coms, Perkins says, are taking on a new allure.

"I came to the BBC with the belief that something had changed," he says. "Five years ago shows like *Dad's Army* would have been regarded as a dated style of comedy. I think there is a great desire now to re-evaluate shows like that and recognise their standards. I'm hoping that *The Thin Blue*

Line [which starts tonight] is exactly what I mean. It's written by Ben Elton, it's got Rowan Atkinson in it, it's a big BBC1 comedy show, I think it's extremely funny and it's the sort of thing that is, I hope, reshaping the channel."

Seamus Cassidy, commissioning editor for entertainment at Channel 4, echoes this theme. Over the past decade most of the new comedy on Channel 4 has come from performers from the alternative comedy circuit. "That furrow is very well ploughed," Cassidy says. "There is an interest in sit-com again."

One of the new breed of sit-com writers is the novelist and journalist Stephanie Calman, whose *Dressing for Breakfast* begins soon on Channel 4. The producer Jane Wollsey says the programme was originally intended as a comedy drama, but the sit-com format proved surprisingly beneficial. "It kind of warms it up," she says. "Meanwhile, ITV, whose sit-com crown seems to have passed to the BBC, is not laying idle. Paul Spencer, controller of network comedy since August, promises — or, perhaps, threatens — a "blend of very modern innovative comedy and very mainstream comedy" in order to give the

BBC "a damn good run". Sit-com fans can rest easy in their armchairs, then, for the British species of the genre is blooming.

Besides, look what happens when the Americans get hold of British comedies: they remove all the bits that make them work in the first place. "They're looking at taking the smoking and drinking out of *Ab Fab*," Perkins says. "When they did *Porridge* they were worried about a show set in prison, so they set it in an open prison where you could come and go. They did *Fawlty Towers* and got rid of Basil, for reasons I can't understand."

Cassidy is no less derisive. "If they do make *One Foot in the Grave*, will it be a case of them saying: 'Now, this guy doesn't have a job. Shouldn't we give him a job? And what about a dog? Yeah, let's give him a dog. And children...'"

Memo to American producers: any time you want to send an aspiring writer across the Atlantic for some sit-com lessons, we're sure something can be arranged.

● The Thin Blue Line begins on BBC1 tonight (8.30pm). Right in Reply: Sitcom. Sitcoms on Channel 4 on Saturday (6.30pm). *Dressing for Breakfast* begins on Nov 24 on Channel 4 (9pm)

CLASSICAL CHOICE

A guide to the best available recordings, presented in conjunction with Radio 3

RICHARD STRAUSS'S

Salome

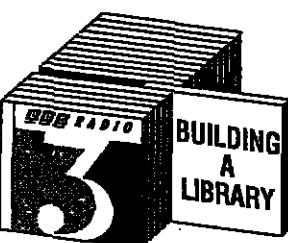
Reviewed by Rodney Milnes

There are no fewer than 14 recordings of Strauss's operatic setting of Oscar Wilde's play currently available, three of them on videotape/laserdisc. That is a compelling answer to those who, not many years ago, predicted that Strauss would turn out to be the Meyerbeer of the 20th century. He is now as firmly entrenched in the repertoire as Puccini. And for obvious reasons — sex, sadism, necrophilia — *Salome* is one of his most popular works.

Many of the 14 are mainly of interest to the dedicated opera buff: a live recording from the 1951 Munich Festival with Hans Hotter as John the Baptist and Max Lorenz as Herod, both unbeatable (Orfeo C 342932); a well-recorded 1963 version from Dresden matchlessly played by the Staatskapelle (Berlin Classics 0091012 BC); the 1969 RCA set with Montserrat Caballé which, because it is so beautifully sung, makes the piece seem central to the Strauss canon rather than an expressionist aberration (GD 8664).

The three videos present an easy choice. The famous Unidel-DG version with Teresa Stratas has aged badly. The Deutsche Oper set, well conducted by Giuseppe Sinopoli, is visually boring save for Catherine Malfitano's dance and Leoni Rysanek's divinely decadent Herodias. The one to have is Peter Hall's blatantly sexy production with Maria Ewing, soundly conducted by Edward Downes (Pioneer CGP 01; PLMCB 0079).

Which leaves four modern audio recordings for the li-



brary shelf. The 1990 Philips set (432 153-2) has the best Baptist since Hotter in James Morris, but Jessye Norman does not sound much like a teenager, more like Isolde in a really bad mood, and Seiji Ozawa's conducting is oddly anonymous. The famous John Culshaw production for Decca (414 414-2) with Birgit Nilsson sounds amazing for its age (1961), and Georg Solti's driven, neurotic conducting never relaxes the tension. Sinopoli's Deutsche Grammophon recording with Cheryl Studer (1990) goes for lithe, clear sound (431 810-2). Studer's singing is consistently lyrical and bright-toned, and there's strong support from Horst Hiestermann and Rysanek as the Herods and Bryn Terfel as the Baptist.

But Terfel is better recorded on the latest set from Decca, released earlier this year (444 178-2, £25.99, two CDs), and Catherine Malfitano is as young-sounding as Studer but warmer-toned and, having sung the role on stage so often, much more inside the character. What makes this new set the winner for me is Christoph von Dohnanyi's conducting and the recording quality: every detail of the score, not only its eroticism but also its wit, is audible in warm yet crystal-clear sound.

● Recommended recordings can be ordered from The Times CD Mail, 29 Pall Mall Deposit, Barby Road, London W10 6BL (freephone 0500 418419; e-mail: hid@mail.bogo.co.uk)
● Next Saturday on Radio 3 (9am): Chopin's Sonata No 2

CLASSICAL MUSIC: Nyman's new Trombone Concerto; genius updated

Rough by name, ragged by nature

BBC SO/Hickox
Festival Hall

A snatch of Purcell, metal sheets hammered in the rhythm of a football chant, saucy pants suspended from a wire and beaten, all lapped up by an eager, youthful audience. It could only be a Michael Nyman premiere: in this case his Trombone Concerto, given by Christian Lindberg with the BBC Symphony Orchestra under Richard Hickox.

The concept of the concerto derives from the centuries-old notion of "rough music", defined as a cacophony directed against social pariahs. Here the soloist adopts the role of offender: he is supported by brass and string sections in off-repeated motor rhythms, but opposed by implacable metal percussion and woodwind. The Purcell is from the

part with unflappable aplomb. Playing impressively from memory, he can be forgiven his tendency to improvise (one feels that the written notes are scarcely sacred in a Nyman score in any case).

Just as Nyman's work reflects an unsettling folk tradition, so Britten, in his use of folk material, could be relied upon to give it a slightly disturbing, dissonant edge. *Cakes and Ale*, the first movement of the suite on English folk tunes, *A Time There Was*... is even marked "fast and

rough", echoing Nyman's buzz word. Hickox and his players injected the necessary element of grittiness, but they also caught the note of languid melancholy in the final movement, *Lord Melbourne*.

With its delving into the collective folk memory, Elgar's *The Spirit of England* provided an ideal piece with which to complete the programme. This three-movement requiem for the fallen was a setting for some familiar lines of Laurence Binyon ("They shall grow not old"). Binyon's sonorous cadences struck a powerful chord with Elgar, and inspired the kind of universalising, grief-stricken nobility that marks the composer's greatest works.

BARRY MILLINGTON

Thoroughly modern Monteverdi

Orfeo
St James's, Piccadilly

Trinity College of Music, which not long ago appeared the poor relation to London's other conservatories, is raising its profile. It won valuable publicity when the mezzo Katarina Karnéus, a recent graduate, was named this year's Cardiff Singer of the World, and its public performances are showing a new adventurousness.

Over the last fortnight it has presented an enterprising festival of three programmes entitled "Monteverdi in the 20th Century". Monteverdi's innovations exercise a special fascination for contemporary composers. The Italians Bruno Maderna and Luciano

Berio are among those to have "recomposed" operas of his using a modern orchestral palette, and both Berio's version of *Il combattimento di Tancredi e Clorinda* and Maderna's reworking of *Orfeo* have just been aired by Trinity College.

On Thursday at St James's Church, Piccadilly, *Orfeo* (1607) came across with freshly engaging directness. Maderna's score is ripe with bewitching obbligatos, which, far from being fussy, under-

line the drama. The orchestration is lush — it includes alto flute, contra bassoon, guitars, and calls for three percussionists and 11 cellists — but never cloy. Trinity College's Symphony Orchestra performed with stylish lightness under the admirable baton of David Angus.

The cast was committed, though a bolder Orfeo might have been better than the soft-grained tenor Hiroshi Kanazawa. The most moving performance was Rebecca Smith's Messenger, whose vocal colouring, communicative Italian and simple gestures conveyed the character's distress. Alison Smart (Eurydice)

and Julie Leyland (Music) both sang brightly, and Nola Lachmann as Hope disclosed a vibrant soprano of potential in heavier repertoire. Joanna Driver, Christopher Butterworth and David Robertson stood out among the rest.

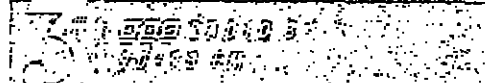
The performance was semi-staged, without any sets, props, or costumes apart from Charon's leather get-up. But John Abulafia's direction made resourceful use of the pulpit, aisles and gallery to conjure up the action, and he missed none of the deep emotion that makes *Orfeo* the first great work in operatic history.

JOHN ALLISON

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'I'm a mobster's daughter and I have to deal with it all my life'

When a brown paper package arrived from the Gotti in the old days, you took it outside and opened it from a distance, gingerly. John Gotti was the most powerful mobster in Eighties Manhattan, and not a man to cross.

But in recent days various New York publishers have been receiving a less ominous parcel from a member of the Gotti family. Victoria Gotti, his daughter, has written a novel and she wants it published.

The manuscript's prose style is streetwise, the dialogue worthy of James Cagney. Her police officers have Irish names and call their boss "chief". The Mafia features large and "rubbing out" is, well, a way of life. They say authors should write about things they know.

Miss Gotti, 31, has already been in print. Earlier this year she received praise for a medical volume, *Women and Mitral Valve Prolapse*, which drew on her personal experiences of heart disease. Mitral valve prolapse is a common, if inadequately recog-

nised, condition from which Miss Gotti suffers. She has to wear a heart monitor at all times, and suffers occasional palpitations and exhaustion.

That has not kept her from a draining daily routine which sees her rise at 6am to prepare breakfast for her family and catapault the children off to school. Aside from the business of running a large, some might say opulent, house on Long Island, she also cooks and writes, although some days she does not get the chance to sit down to her writing until midnight.

The manuscript arriving at the smart, midtown desks of publishing executives is called *The Senator's Daughter*, and tells the story of a young lawyer who is the illegitimate daughter of a Massachusetts senator (the geography is purely a matter of coincidence, m'lud). The lawyer not only finds herself investigating the violent death of a leading gangland figure, but also falls in love with the handsome son of a trade union boss whose

Quentin Letts reports from New York on plans to publish a novel by Victoria Gotti, the child of a notorious Mafia family

links with the "ethnic" world are best left uninvestigated.

Miss Gotti herself studied some law in her college days, but her romantic life was, if anything, more unusual than that of her heroine. She is married to Carmine Agnello, a prosperous car parts businessman whom she met when she was 16, he rather older.

Carmine would follow her around, from her home to the gates of the college she was attending, and finally won her hand after a determined courtship.

They were confident days. Her father, while posing as a \$36,000-a-year plumber, was riding



Victoria Gotti: "My father said don't let them exploit you"

around his patch of New York City in a smoked-glass limousine and raking in millions. The family lived well, and Victoria was seen at all the best parties in town, a vivacious, bony blonde.

They now have three sons

gold taps and gleaming bathroom. Not bad for a guy in car parts, but then American cars do have a tendency to fall to pieces and Mr Agnello works hard.

Little Frankie is said to be a spitting image of the grandfather

whose boyish twinkle sat so at odds with his reputation as a merciless hardman.

When John Gotti was convicted by a federal court in 1992 of racketeering and of being boss of the Gambino organised crime family, Victoria demonstrated

great loyalty.

"My father is the last of the Mohicans," she said. "They don't make men like him any more and they never will."

Father and daughter remain close. From his high-security jail cell in Marion, Illinois, Gotti has read the manuscript of *The Senator's Daughter* and liked it, though he had one or two minor changes to suggest.

His editorial approval left Victoria on "cloud nine", and she continues to regard him as "the greatest source of strength in my life".

The family is allowed only non-contact visits to him in jail, and yet the "Dapper Don" remains an influence over their lives, keeping himself going with his own physical daily routine of 2,000 exercises, reading and standing-up (for self

discipline). He is allowed out of the cell for one hour a day, yet his muscles are said to be hard as steel.

When Miss Gotti asked her father for approval for her literary career he said: "You're a smart girl. Go out and do it."

But the former master of extortion added, perhaps ironically: "Don't let them exploit you." Miss Gotti took inspiration, and has said that "I'm John Gotti's daughter and I have to carry it around and deal with it all my life."

This is true on more than one level. She continues to take extensive measures to protect her own security.

So far the early word from the publishers on *The Senator's Daughter* is good. Miss Gotti's agent, Frank Weimann, is said to be taking calls from film producers and foreign associates, and is looking for a six-figure advance.

On sheer talent alone, this may be ambitious. But as they say in this part of the country, the dame has connections.

Rachel Kelly meets the chatelaine and society painter

The duchess shows her true colours

IT'S Wednesday afternoon, and the Hahn Gallery in Albemarle Street, Mayfair, seems more a florist than a gallery. Tiger-lilies compete with bouquets of roses. Paul Brooke & Gould cards vie with those from Moyes Stevens.

For this is probably the grandest society exhibition this year. The Duchess of Marlborough is showing her oils and hosting a private view that evening. Her Grace's friends are saying it with flowers.

Here comes Jane Churchill, a relation and society decorator. There goes Charles Cholmondeley, art dealer to the fashionable. Shrieks of "Darling" and Chanel No 5 fill the air. Gosh, seven paintings have already been sold to an Arab, can you believe it?

The duchess herself is terrified. "I'm very shaky about the whole thing. I feel as if I'm putting my head on the chopping block," she confides over a Marlboro.

"When you expose your inner being, it's a very emo-



tional moment. I feel like a piece of jelly in a storm." Is it really that bad? "No actually, it's worse."

The duchess wants to be taken seriously as a painter. "I'm not an artist. I've never thought of myself as an artist," she says. This isn't some part-time hobby. This is her life.

It's also her first one-woman show. She has exhibited in Oxford with a local painting circle called The Oxford 20. But she can't hide behind anyone in Albemarle Street.

But surely, I say, she is among friends. No professional art critics are expected, and anyway, as the duchess herself says, they would be unlikely to review her work. "There's no

sensationalism to it," she says. "It's very traditional."

She works from life - and photographs in oil, and features Pierrots and pugs, clowns and Cecil Beaton-esque ladies in hats and veils. In the window is a portrait of one black and one white greyhound. These are nicely composed, well-executed, pictures even if their subject matter is pure chocolate box. Her talent was recognised this summer when she had two paintings in the Royal Academy's Summer Exhibition, which sold quickly because they were pleasingly figurative.

"I could have sold her greyhound picture five times over," says the gallery owner Paul Hahn. "Their composition is especially strong."

And he is not just saying that because his gallery has re-stored Blenheim's masters for 30 years. His decision to exhibit was commercial. The pictures will sell, and not just to Her Grace's friends. Other galleries were very interested in exhibiting her work.

So why the worry? "The paintings are my babies. I'm emotionally involved with them. I mind terribly about my work," she says.

It seems odd then to sell the canvases. The 40-odd paintings are priced between £1,000 and £5,000, depending on size. The largest is 24in by 36in, the smallest 10in by 12in. Is the chatelaine of a palace housing a £30 million art collection selling to pay the bills?

"No, I'm not trying to pay the mortgage," she says. "But I did once, before I was married and when I was a designer for Ungaro in Paris." The exhibition, she repeats, is about being obsessed by painting.

"This is why I am sticking my neck out. I'm not dabbling in this. I'm not an amateur. I went to art school in Paris and Stockholm. I am a painter. I identify with being a painter. More than being a duchess?"

"It's much easier to talk about what you do."

Countess Rosita Douglas is the daughter of a Swedish diplomat. She owes her maid-



The Duchess of Marlborough at the exhibition of her oils, which includes *Pair of Greyhounds* (left): "I'm not dabbling in this. I'm not an amateur"

en name to Scottish ancestors who settled in Sweden in the 17th century. She was 28 when she married the 46-year-old Duke of Marlborough in 1972; she was his third wife. His first was Susan Hornby, mother of the Marquess of Blandford and Lady Henrietta Spencer-Churchill; his second Tina Livanos, a former wife of Aristotle Onassis.

She describes herself as a hands-on duchess. Work never stops at Blenheim: be it touching up the paintwork, clipping the topiary mazes, serving the tourists, making Blenheim fudge or retelling the

three acres of roofs. Until three years ago, she had never seen the house without scaffolding. "I love everything I do. To live in a house like Blenheim is an extraordinary privilege."

She finds the Reynolds, Sargent and Stubbs inspiring, not oppressive. She and the 11th Duke live in private apartments in one wing of the

Vanburgh and Hawksmoor palace with its Capability Brown park. The house was built to honour the 1st Duke of Marlborough's victory at the Battle of Blenheim in 1704. For an extra £3.20 supplement to their £7 entry fee, tourists can traipse through the private rooms in the summer as well as the state apartments. Churchill exhibition, Marlborough maze and butterfly house. The family move to a Queen Anne House on the estate.

Mother to Edward, 21, reading Economics at Pembroke College, Cambridge, and Alexandra, 18, who took her A

levels at Tudor Hall last summer and is working at Hambros before going to Bristol University, she describes them as "the most wonderful children". A discreet veil is pulled over Jamie, Marquess of Blandford, the duke's eldest son by his first wife, and his various scrapes with the law. In 1992, the duke took legal action to stop Jamie from

inheriting Blenheim. She does on her children. "I think I realised how precious life is when we lost our eldest son," Richard was four months old when he died. He would have been 22.

Now that her children are grown up, she has more time to paint. At every opportunity she retreats to her "Dirty Den", a jumble of jars stuffed

with paintbrushes, palettes, tins of instant coffee and her beloved canvases, in her private wing.

It is hard to square this immaculate bouffant blonde in her designer suit standing in a Mayfair gallery with the obsessive creative she describes. But obsessed she clearly is. She thinks of art every waking moment. Some-

times she paints until four in the morning. The exhibition really matters. She longs for people to see and appreciate her work. No wonder my last glimpse was of her scooping up her flowers and bundling them into a taxi.

● Rosita Marlborough is exhibiting at the Hahn Gallery from November 10 to 30.

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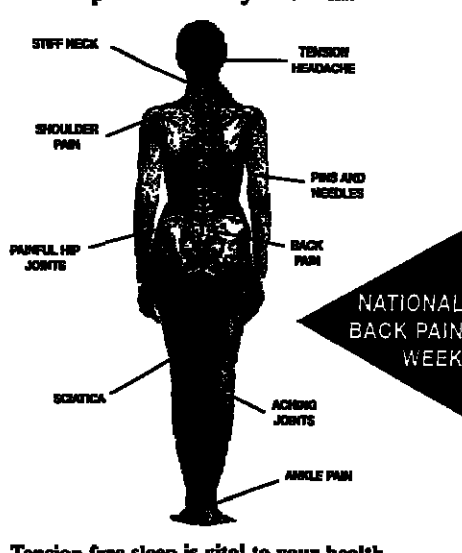
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Rational enzyme inhibitor attacks HIV □ Call for volunteers to count shooting stars □ Grasslands unharmed by nitrogen

DRUG researchers don't like to think of themselves as the scientific equivalent of the National Lottery, but they are, in a sense, betting on a huge range of compounds at a disease in the hope that one of them will cure it. They would prefer to believe that rational thought rather than blind chance lies behind their successes, which is why a new Aids drug developed at a British laboratory is a cause for celebration.

Saquinavir, which last week received approval from a US Food and Drug Administration panel, is the world's first rationally designed anti-viral drug. The team who created it, at Roche's research centre at Welwyn, Hertfordshire, set out with a clear scientific understanding of what they wanted to do — and achieved it. The process, says Dr David Clough, director of biology for Roche UK, was very quick.

Saquinavir attacks HIV, the virus responsible for Aids, in a completely different way from existing therapies. If the full FDA

Aids drug by design



SCIENCE BRIEFING
Nigel Hawkes

follows its panel's advice and gives the drug the go-ahead, it will be used in combination with existing drugs, giving HIV what the FDA commissioner, David Kessler, calls the "one-two punch".

When Roche began in 1986, says Dr Clough, they recognised along with others that HIV depended for its replication on a particular enzyme, called a protease. As the virus multiplied, the structural proteins that are needed to build new viral particles and spread the disease are generated in the form

of a long chain which has to be cut at specific points before the virus can mature and spread. This is the task of protease. "We looked at where the enzyme cleaved the chain and realised that it was a type of cleavage that never occurs in mammalian cells," Dr Clough said. "That meant if we could design a compound to inhibit the enzyme it ought to be incredibly selective, acting against HIV without any side-effects against human enzymes."

The theory was right, and a lead compound was identified within

two years. Now, seven years later — fast, by the normal standards of drug testing and approval — Saquinavir is on the verge of a licence in America. It has also been submitted to the European licensing authority, and Roche is hoping for approval some time next year.

At least two other protease inhibitors are under development, from Abbott and Merck, but Roche has a slight lead. The company says that trials have shown the drug to be as effective against HIV as the best-known of the existing drugs, AZT, and that it works "really well" as part of a combined therapy. Roche has not yet said what it will cost.

So will all drugs be designed this way in future? Not necessarily. The arrival of robot-controlled chemical synthesis — the technique called combinatorial chemistry — and automated testing enables thousands of compounds to be created and tested in the laboratory every week. This has given new life to traditional methods of drug discovery just when it looked as if they were on the verge of being superseded.

Meteor watch



THIS week astronomers are urging volunteers to get out of doors and start counting shooting stars. They want to know how many can be seen in any 30-minute period at any time from November 14 to 20 — and the answer could have a bearing on the safety of space shuttle crews in a couple of years' time.

Every year at this time there is a good display of meteors, as the Earth crosses the orbit of the comet Tempel-Tuttle, and tiny fragments left behind by the comet burn up in the atmosphere. The Leonid meteor shower, as it is called, generally produces some where between five and 20 meteors an hour.

But in 1998-99 Tempel-Tuttle will make a close approach to Earth and the shower is expected to become far more spectacular. The last time this happened, in 1966, meteors were raining down

on the Earth at a rate of 150,000 an hour. Then, there were relatively few satellites in orbit, but today there are thousands.

John Mason, president of the British Astronomical Association, predicts that numbers this year may reach 50 to 100 an hour. Recording them could help to forecast how dangerous the 1998 peak will really be. For an information pack on Leonid Watch 95, ring Science Line on 0345 600 444 between 1pm and 7pm.

Downs safe

NARE Britain's chalk grasslands at risk of destruction as a result of the increases in nitrogen inputs, fourfold without observing any damage, although growth was stimulated. They suggest that the limiting factor in British conditions is not nitrogen but phosphorus. "There is no evidence that high levels of atmospheric nitrogen will decrease species diversity in chalk grasslands," they conclude. The greater risk is to water supplies.

are all increasing their output of nitrogen oxides, while livestock wastes generate ammonia which also reaches the soil. Dutch scientists have shown clear changes in parts of The Netherlands in the past half-century which they attribute to nitrogen enrichment.

Now Emma Wilson from National Power Research and Engineering in Swindon, and Terry Wells and Tim Sparks of the Institute of Terrestrial Ecology at Monks Wood, Cambridgeshire, have completed some experiments which appear to set these fears at rest.

They report in the *Journal of Ecology* that adding extra nitrogen to plots planted with grassland plants did not have damaging effects. They were able to increase nitrogen inputs fourfold without observing any damage, although growth was stimulated. They suggest that the limiting factor in British conditions is not nitrogen but phosphorus. "There is no evidence that high levels of atmospheric nitrogen will decrease species diversity in chalk grasslands," they conclude. The greater risk is to water supplies.

Danger of sleeping bacteria

John Postgate
on how millions of microbes may not be dead but just awaiting a wake-up call

Like all other living things, bacteria can starve to death. Some species form spores, cysts or other resistant bodies which can survive for centuries, even millennia, but the majority of bacteria will survive for only a few weeks, sometimes a few months, without food. Or so it seemed until the 1990s.

Since the 1960s microbiologists have been aware of an ambiguity surrounding death in bacteria. It arises from the way in which researchers measure how many cells in a population are alive or dead, because they look much the same under a microscope.

Normally, microbiologists use a microscope to count how many bacteria there are in a given volume of a population, and they spread a diluted sample of the same population on the surface of nutrient jelly. This they keep warm for several hours, or days if necessary, and colonies grow from those bacteria which were originally able to multiply. Since each colony arose from a single cell, it is simple to count the colonies and estimate the proportion of cells in the original population which had been able to multiply. Those are termed viable; the rest are regarded as dead.

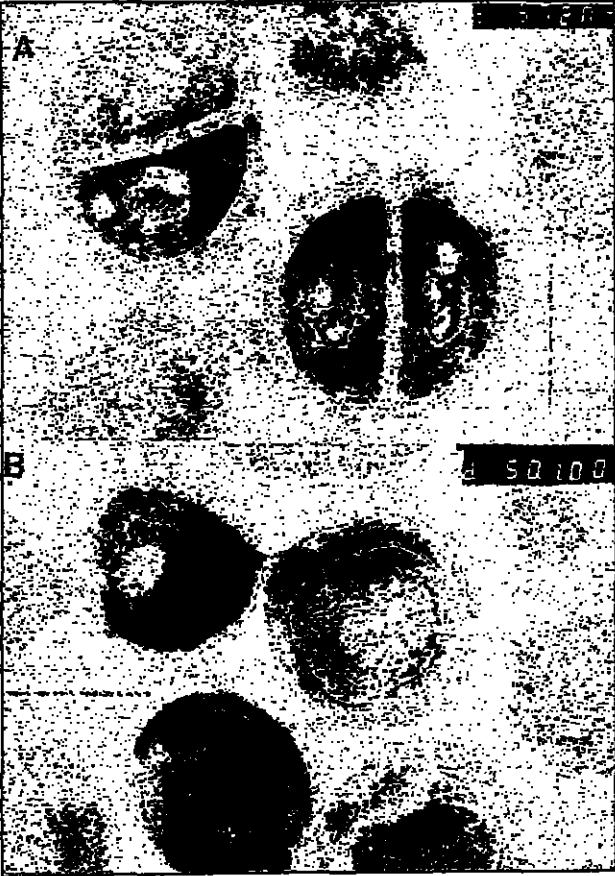
However, in the early 1960s my colleagues and I discovered that, when starved in an otherwise favourable environment (warm, faintly saline water) our bacteria, *Klebsiella*, became senescent before they finally died. The senescent bacteria were alive as individuals: their cells were turgid and intact, though often small, they metabolised and respired, though very slowly. But they could no longer reproduce themselves on the nutrient jelly. In due course they did die: the cell walls became leaky and metabolic activity ceased altogether.

Senescent cells were more than just a laboratory curiosity because, in nature, most bacteria are starving for most of the time, and it seemed likely that the majority of cells in the microbial populations of sludges, sediments and so on were senescent. Ecologists argued about whether they were truly moribund, or were viable in the sense that they could have been revived if only one knew how to do it. Some experiments pointed one way, some the other.

There the matter stuck until, in the early 1990s, Professor Douglas Kell of the Institute of Biological Sciences at the University of Wales, Aberyst-



Professor Douglas Kell has discovered evidence that bacteria, dead according to routine tests, are in fact only dormant



Dividing (A) and dormant (B) *Micrococcus luteus* cells that have been starved for four months. The dormant cells are smaller and have a much thicker cell wall

with, and a collaborator from Moscow, Dr Arseny Kaprelyants, succeeded in reviving "senescent" bacteria. Professor Kell and his colleagues starved bacteria called *Micrococcus luteus* in a fluid culture until the vast majority were dead by the usual criterion: only one in 10,000 formed colonies on jelly. But most of them remained physiologically active: they were putatively senescent. However, Kell and his colleagues discovered that if, instead of spreading the senescent bacteria out on jelly

straight away, they incubated the population for a short while in a warm, nutrient soup before spreading, they formed hundreds more colonies.

Had the senescent cells regained their lost youth in their hundreds? Or had a few vigorous survivors multiplied prodigiously during that short incubation? It was a teasing question, which required many carefully designed experiments to resolve.

The upshot was that the few survivors had not multiplied significantly. What they had

done was to act as lookouts: somehow they had sensed the presence of nutrient and had then produced a substance which revived their colleagues. Why did their colleagues not wake up on jelly, where there was also plenty of nutrient? Because they were too widely separated from any lookouts for the wake-up substance to reach them. In the fluid soup, the wake-up substance diffused freely and every cell had a chance of picking up some of it. So those "senescent" micrococci were no such thing: they were dormant cells, awaiting a wake-up call.

Kell and his colleagues are purifying the wake-up substance and have already shown that it is a kind of protein. Doubtless its precise chemical structure will soon be known.

Complex organisms such as insects signal to each other by means of chemical messengers, called pheromones, and these are familiar enough to biologists. Analogous chemicals with which bacteria tell others what to do are also known. For example, swarming, gene-exchange, antibiotic-production and even luminosity are triggered in appropriate bacteria by diffusible chemicals secreted by the cells themselves.

But the evidence that huge populations of bacteria, dead according to routine bacteriological tests, are in fact dormant is new. It raises fascinating questions. At present it is a laboratory finding which applies to one "house-trained" species. Does it happen to other species? How long can dormant bacteria remain "asleep"? Can one species wake up dormant cells of another?

For most of this century most microbiologists have thought that the majority of bacteria in mud, soil, sediments and sludges, be they dead or moribund, were out of the picture for all practical purposes. This could be far from the truth. It is a sobering thought that they could be dozing, waiting for the call to leap into activity when a few lookouts sense appropriate change.

John Postgate, FRS, is Emeritus Professor of Microbiology, University of Sussex. His recent book, *The Outer Reaches of Life*, has just been published in paperback (Canto, £6.95).

Marcus du Sautoy on the discoverer of anti-matter

Equation that changed the world

$$i\hbar \cdot \partial \psi = m \psi$$

Dirac's Equation

cles that make up matter. But more startlingly it also implied the existence of a particle similar to the electron but with negative energy — the first inkling of what we now call anti-matter.

This theoretical implication of a particle that, if it existed, would annihilate any electron in sight seemed absurd. Yet if Dirac's Equation was correct, such particles would have to exist. Even Dirac said that he did not have the courage to admit the existence of such a particle.

Then in 1932, Carl D. Anderson, an experimental physicist at the California Institute of Technology, found some strange particle traces in cosmic rays.

It soon became clear that

these particles, now called positrons, had to be the anti-matter predicted by Dirac's Equation. A year later Dirac shared the Nobel Prize with Erwin Schrödinger.

Dirac was always convinced of the power of mathematics to describe the physical world. "Mathematics can lead us in a direction we would not take if we only followed up physical ideas by themselves," he once said.

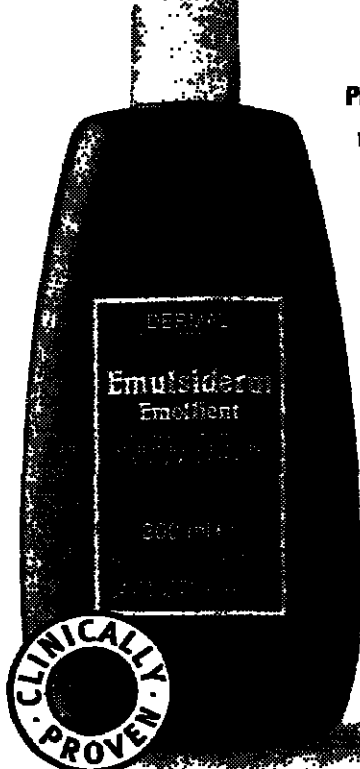
The poetry of Dirac's Equation certainly forced us to discover these particles, which ran against any human intuition and, even today, hold many puzzles. For every electron there should exist a corresponding positron. But where are they all? Hopefully not too close, else we will all disappear in an explosion of light.

Dirac's confidence in aesthetics as a guide to natural law did not waver. On a blackboard in Moscow he wrote: "It is more important to have beauty in one's equations than to have them fit experiment." His words have never been erased.

Dr Marcus du Sautoy is a Royal Society University Research Fellow at the Department of Pure Mathematics in Cambridge.

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Friendship

Rukba

Matthew Parris



Everybody wants sanctions on Nigeria, but no one thinks ahead about taking responsibility for Africa

Nigeria stands condemned. The call for sanctions overwhelms us. In politics, as in journalism, there are moments when events come to such a pass that one clear course suggests itself to all the world. Every civilised voice is raised for action. At such moments, hesitation becomes almost impossible to recommend. And so it comes about that, with the good and pensive features of Ken Saro-Wiwa spread across the pages of every weekend paper and the outrage of world opinion stamped into every headline, scarcely a voice is raised in doubt.

But these are the moments when we ought to doubt. We should think beyond the urge to take a single step, and ask upon what road it is a step. Africa may be descending into a dark age and may have a great deal further, and many decades longer, to descend. It is probably beyond the power of the outside world to arrest and reverse the continent's slide, and it is almost certainly beyond our will. Nigeria is not the first and will not be the worst of Africa's offenders. It is simply the country in which, for the moment, Britain feels most disappointed.

But where in Africa are things going right? Ghana, perhaps, looks hopeful. On the prospects for South Africa — where I was born — this columnist takes a bleaker view than is fashionable: but I agree that there is at least hope. Botswana, Lesotho and Swaziland — where I was educated — will sink or swim with South Africa.

Zimbabwe (where I was brought up) is beginning to slip as the inevitable consequences of effective one-party rule show through. The slide in Kenya, a country which has taken 30 years to reach its present disgrace, but where the decline gathers pace.

Angola is a mess. A traveller from Mozambique told me recently that people are now living in the abandoned animal cages of Beira's former zoo. My family used to take seaside holidays in Beira, a cluttered, prosperous, messy port. Now, apparently, Beira is clean. People are so poor there isn't even any litter.

Zambia staggers on. Malawi totters. Tanzania has bottomed out, after Julius Nyerere willfully wrecked the country's partly Asian commercial backbone with his experiments in "African socialism" — experiments which caused more real loss to more ordinary Africans than even Nigeria's despoils have, but which nobody ever suggested it was the West's business to prohibit.

Uganda has reached and passed some kind of nadir of self-humiliation. Rwanda is a mess. A traveller from Mozambique told me recently that people are now living in the abandoned animal cages of Beira's former zoo. My family used to take seaside holidays in Beira, a cluttered, prosperous, messy port. Now, apparently, Beira is clean. People are so poor there isn't even any litter.

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Now all the parties have moved to the right, Labour is offering a kind of consensus conservatism

Never in my lifetime has British politics moved so far to the right. The Labour and Liberal parties both accept right-wing policies which Margaret Thatcher did not even contemplate in the 1979 general election manifesto. The Labour Party has been moving steadily to the right since 1983, not in a sudden lurch but in a persistent movement of policy and people. Those right-wing Labour politicians who have stayed approximately in the same place, such as Roy Hattersley, have found themselves in a dozen years turned into left-wingers, much to their own surprise. Toughness on crime, stable or lower taxes, social pressure on idlers, enterprise and saving are Conservative themes which have become central to the new Labour orthodoxy.

The Liberal Party has not moved so far, but has also accepted at least 80 per cent of the Thatcher legacy. The Liberals have been left as the party which is furthest to the left, simply because Tony Blair has moved much faster to the right than they could. To judge by the polls, that is not doing the Liberals much good.

The Conservatives themselves have not moved further to the right than Margaret Thatcher, but have certainly moved back away from the left-centre position of the early John Major period. In 1991, the left-centre members of the party thought they had regained power after a Thatcher interregnum, that they were the masters now. That was mistaken.

The balance inside the Government has indeed shifted less than that in new Labour, but in the same direction. The Prime Minister has aligned his personal position on the centre-right with two powerful departmental ministers. Malcolm Rifkind and Gillian Shephard. He

has the support of a tough new chairman of the party, Brian Mawhinney, and he has a good understanding with John Redwood, who leads the right of the party outside the Cabinet.

These five now hold the commanding heights of the Tory party, and are equally able to hold off attacks from the far right by Michael Portillo or from their left by Michael Heseltine or Kenneth Clarke. In party management, this is now a centre-right Conservative administration, opposed by a far-right Labour Opposition and a centre-right Liberal Party — judging each in terms of its own tradition and support.

If one could forget the polls, this would look quite a strong position for John Major. His inner team of five is performing well. Gillian Shephard, calmly managing the two very sensitive portfolios of education and employment, is beginning to look a rising Tory star, certainly a possible future leader, as Sue Lawley pointed out in last week's *Desert Island Discs*. Malcolm Rifkind is moving the Foreign Office on from the settled views of the Douglas Hurd years. Brian Mawhinney is not a very popular chairman with some people in the party machine, but if he were popular he would not be doing his job. John Redwood is using the freedom of the back benches as a strong Conservative propagandist, inside the

party he is the acknowledged leader of a loyal intellectual alternative of the right.

John Major himself has always been a party manager in the role of Prime Minister, like Stanley Baldwin or Harold Wilson. Such men are not my favourite type of Prime Minister. My admiration goes to those who try to change history, like Lloyd George, Churchill or Thatcher, and do not merely seek to manipulate it. But these party managers have all proved very hard to beat.

They remain as leaders for long periods — both Baldwin and Wilson for well over the normal decade. They win general elections — Baldwin won three and Wilson won four. They are often challenged by their colleagues, but they see off their challengers. They are often attacked by the press, but they survive the attacks. Those who look to them for radical change, for great declarations of principle or historic decisions are disappointed. Party managers who become prime minister are rather like chief engineers who have to captain their ships.

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Can a Tory-Labour party really work?

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they may be rather weak navigators, but they keep the propellers turning.

Yet one cannot forget the opinion polls. As Dr Mawhinney says, the most recent local government by-elections have been a good deal more favourable than the polls which were published at the same time. Some swing back to the Government can be expected in the period before the election. Yet when the qualifications have been made, the polls have been very bad for a very long time, and have so far been confirmed by parliamentary by-elections, and by elections for local government and Europe.

The new Labour Party is indeed very tempting. Tony Blair is a good Labour leader, to me the most sympathetic since Hugh Gaitskell. The Shadow Cabinet is not all that strong, but the Cabinet has its weak links as well. The Tories have already been in power for 16 years, long enough for a child born on the day that Margaret Thatcher came to office to have taken GCSEs and be embarking on A levels. Political correspondents have to be middle-aged to have written about the Labour Party when it was actually in office.

Naturally people do want change. Tony Blair is offering them change without pain; new Labour actually presented itself at Brighton as entirely consistent with

wrong. Tony Blair's new Labour is not an attempt to return to pre-Bennite Labour. It has more in common with the SDP in its Owenite phase than the Blairites would admit, publicly, and has copied much of the original SDP constitution of 1982. Gordon Brown's emphasis on the responsibility of the long-term unemployed to seek work has an Owenite flavour. Blairites argue that new Labour gives more weight than Owenism to ideas of partnership and community affecting the economic as well as the social side of people's lives. But for all its flaws, the SDP in its Owenite phase was a forerunner of new Labour.

Politicians in all parties have been influenced by the SDP. While the careers of most of the original defectors were destroyed, and a lot of the enthusiastic newcomers of 1981-82 dropped out, many leading activists remain in public life. When Mr Blair addresses the CBI conference this morning, he will be greeted by Aidan Turner, his new Director-General, an early SDP activist. Among Mr Blair's inner circle of advisers are Derek Scott and Roger Liddle, who were both prominent in SDP policymaking.

The Tory analysis of Mr Blair's speech will be organised by Danny Finkelstein, recently appointed head of the Conservative Research Department, also a former SDP activist. He previously ran the Social Market Foundation, which had its origins in the Owenites' new thinking on public services. Four other former SDP members have been, or are, special advisers, while John Horam has made the transition from Labour, via the SDP, to being a Tory MP and Public Services Minister.

The SDP's mark can be seen in the Liberal Democrats' deliberative style of policymaking, and sobriety compared with the old Liberals, while many SDP members remain active locally in the merged party. But SDP alumni now have as much say at the top of other parties as in the central leadership of the Liberal Democrats. The SDP failed because of the resilience of the two main parties, but as a result of disappearing it has continued to influence both of them.

In a vituperative recent article in the *New Statesman*, David Marquand, the former MP and professor who has just rejoined Labour, attacked Lord Owen for "whoring after the false gods of Thatcherite individualism", while Neil Kinnock "carefully and courageously steered the Labour Party into the vacant social democratic space". But Marquand is

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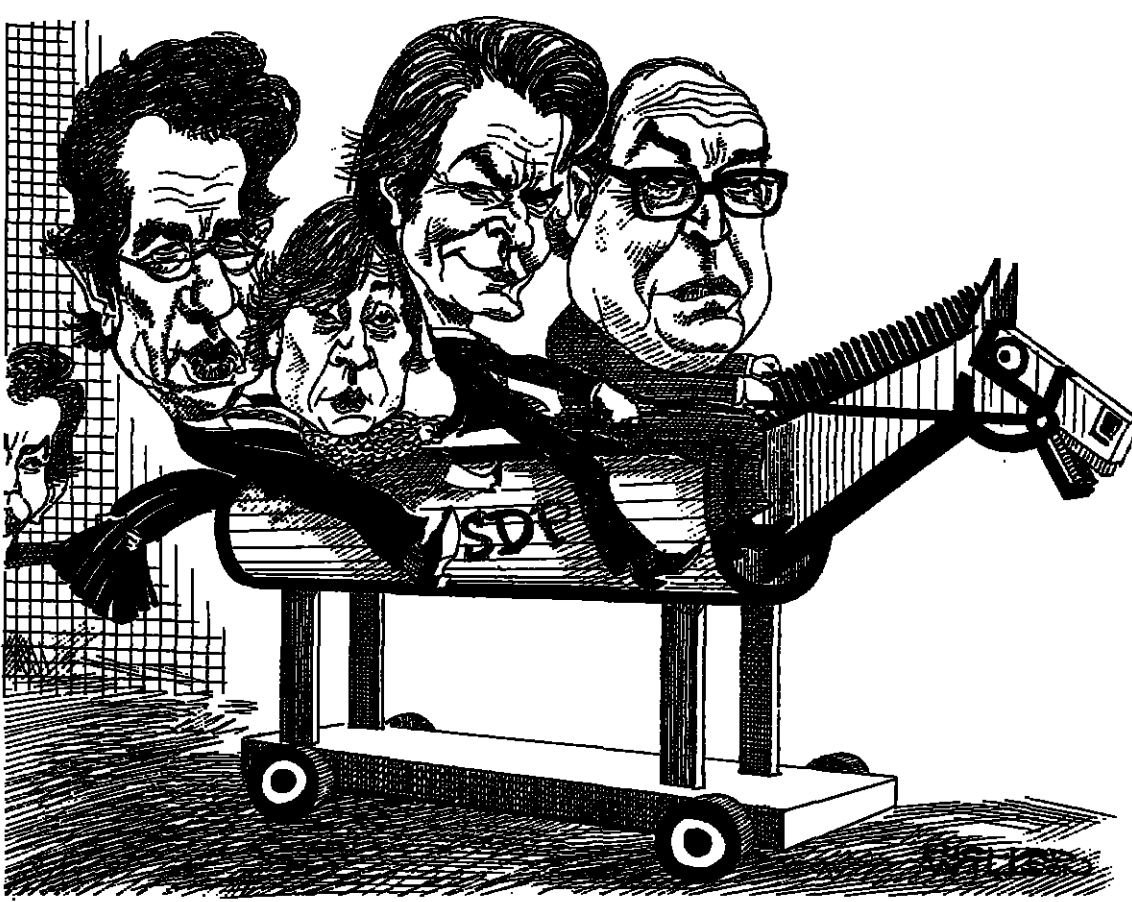
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Enjoying the political afterlife

Peter Riddell argues that the SDP is still influencing the major parties



The SDP has been dead for nearly eight years, but it still casts a long shadow over British politics. It is a classic example of an "influential loser". I came across the phrase recently in a review of a new biography of George Wallace, the American southern populist. Wallace failed to win the presidency, or to come anywhere near, but he shifted America's political debate by exploiting the link between economic insecurities and racial fears. Barry Goldwater is another example. Although submerged in the LBJ landslide of 1964, the Goldwater campaign created the opening for the conservative takeover of the Republican Party.

In Britain, Joseph Chamberlain was defeated in the battle over Imperial preference in 1903-05, but his example ensured that tariff reform remained at the centre of the Tory debate for a generation. More recently, the Euro-sceptics lost the main votes over the Maastricht treaty in 1992-93, but have made Tory policy towards Europe increasingly sceptical.

The influence of the SDP is less obvious. Indeed, any lasting influence is firmly denied by Ivor Crewe and Anthony King of Essex University in their new book *SDP* (Oxford, £25). For them, the SDP has left almost no trace in the country's pool of political talent, the realm of ideas or the party structure. "The new party barely existed, let alone broke the mould of British party politics."

The book brings alive the self-absorbed world of the SDP, in its final days like "a small country's government in exile". The authors convincingly argue that in November 1980 at least five, and probably six, Labour MPs already thinking of

defecting voted for Michael Foot in the Labour leadership contest as a wrecking tactic. This was just sufficient to give him victory over Denis Healey. They reveal how SDP leaders contacted half a dozen Tory MPs, including Stephen Dorrell, about the possibility of joining. The book also destroys several myths: that Europe was the key factor determining whether Labour MPs joined (the depth of their roots in the unions and local government were more important); that it was a media party (apart from the launch, it was largely ignored); and that it was classless (its members were heavily from the new service class of educated meritocrats).

The SDP's hopes rested on Labour disintegrating and losing its core working-class support. Neither happened. The SDP's opportunity disappeared when the Alliance, very

narrowly, failed to overtake Labour in 1983, and when Neil Kinnock started his party's difficult recovery. By concentrating on the SDP's failure, Crewe and King underestimate its influence. Labour's policy reviews, especially after 1987, were internally generated, but on Europe, defence and economic policy, Labour moved onto the ground previously occupied by the SDP. During his heyday in the mid-1980s, David Owen affected both the main parties.

The authors too readily dismiss Lord Owen as an infatuated political leader, which he was by 1987, and take insufficient account of his embrace of a social market economy. In his advocacy of free markets and greater choice in public services, he

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WELL-OILED TYRANNY

Words will never hurt Nigeria's military dictators

With about as much self-assurance as a non-swimmer peering from a diving board, the Commonwealth has suspended Nigeria. It has demanded the release of Chief Moshood Abiola, the putative winner of the 1993 elections, and of 42 of the country's most prominent political prisoners. But instead of demanding, on pain of expulsion, that the illegal regime of General Sani Abacha cede power in short order to elected leaders, the Commonwealth appears ready to keep Nigeria in the club if its despots behave just a little better. New Zealand's Prime Minister, Jim Bolger, meekly expressed the "hope" of Commonwealth Governments "that in the period extending out two years we would see concrete... moves of Nigeria to move back to an acceptable approach to government". Coming from a politician quick to breathe fire and brimstone at democratic France, these were weasel words indeed.

What is at stake here is not just whether the Commonwealth can outgrow the politics of mere gesture. Earlier this year the former Canadian Foreign Minister Flora MacDonald, returning from Nigeria at the head of a Commonwealth human rights investigating team, gave a warning which deserves to be taken even more seriously after the judicial murder of Ken Saro-Wiwa and his associates. Nigeria, she said, was being broken apart on the rack of misgovernment and the world must "start thinking what steps can be taken to ensure that Nigeria does not become another Rwanda".

Nigeria is key to the security and prosperity of West Africa. A return to the horrors of the 1967-70 Biafran War must be avoided. It may not be, if General Abacha stays. Of all the soldiers to seize power since independence, he has been by far the most destructive. He has harassed newspapers and trade unions, bypassed judges, emptied

the universities of talent and filled the jails with political and even military critics of the encroaching chaos. The economy is collapsing, as are education and health services.

The question is what will loosen General Abacha's grip. Sanctions were left to one side at the Commonwealth summit as a matter for individual governments. John Major, joining America, has announced a total ban on British arms sales. That is a start — and a necessary one, since the Department of Trade and Industry has issued 20 export licences since 1993. But it will not have an immediate impact: Nigeria is bristling with weapons. There are only two things that would hurt hard, and fast: the freezing of the ruling clique's overseas bank accounts; and depriving them of the oil revenues that they steal.

At this point, politicians cough nervously. Yesterday Mr Major expressed fears that Nigeria's poor would be hurt by such sanctions. He should note a Nigerian Government commission's report that under General Babangida, ousted in 1993, \$12 billion in oil revenues were unaccounted for. Mr Major's caution may in reality be home-based: Britain has £3.4 billion invested in Nigeria; and Shell, involved in almost half Nigeria's oil production, is poised to sign a £2.6 billion natural gas contract. The International Finance Corporation has pulled out of this deal; Mr Major should persuade Shell to follow suit, and talk urgently to America and Europe about curbing oil purchases. Right in this case coincides with interest: British investments will be secure only when Nigeria has a predictable, democratically accountable government. In the words of Ken Saro-Wiwa: "Oil is what sustains the dictators, enabling them to survive even though they collect no taxes and misgovern in every sense of the word."

BLAIR'S BUSINESS

The CBI is sensible to move closer to Labour

What businessmen most want from politicians is to be left alone. But as members of the Confederation of British Industry meet this week, they will find that politics intrude at every step. Not only are members expected today, in a true spirit of competitiveness, to compare and contrast Tony Blair and Michael Heseltine as speakers; but the current economic climate is heavily influenced by the political weather.

On members' immediate horizon is the Budget. Already the CBI has called for Kenneth Clarke not to embark upon a political exercise. It fears that the Chancellor will cut taxes without due regard for the deficit. Such imprudence would lead to higher interest rates and, given the weakness in demand, rate rises would be disastrous.

In the longer term, controversy is bound to have been stirred by the declaration of the CBI's new Director-General, Adair Turner, that the organisation should be politically neutral at the next general election. To some members, this seems as extraordinary as it would be for John Monks to claim that the TUC was indifferent between Labour and the Tories. That the CBI can plausibly stand between the two parties is a sign both of how far Labour has moved towards business and of how bitter some businessmen feel towards the Conservatives.

Many members at this week's gathering will still have sour memories of the recession induced by the Government's exchange-rate policy. Having backed the Tories at the last general election, they may since have questioned what they gained by doing so. They are unlikely to throw off decades of habit and support Labour; but they may feel at least semi-detached from their old allegiances, which makes neutrality a more comfortable position to adopt.

Moreover, some big businesses are starting to wonder whether they might not actually prefer Labour's advocacy of national champions over the Tories' insistence on competition at home. BT being promised entry into the home entertainment market by Labour in return for cabling schools, hospitals and libraries is a case in point. And employers hope that Labour's emphasis on skills could reduce the amount of remedial action they have to take in order to bring their employees up to scratch.

There is still, though, the problem of trust, which Mr Blair will doubtless try to address today. There remains a strong section of the Labour Party that is at heart opposed to business. Many moderate Labour spokesmen still sound anti-business in their pronouncements. They are not as capitalist as their leader and will have to work hard to be seen as anything but what they are.

On policy, the biggest differences between Labour and the Tories are the social chapter and the minimum wage. Not all businesses are against both. Some already offer their employees conditions more generous than those in the social chapter. Some companies that pay their workers a little more than the expected minimum wage would welcome a floor so that their competitors could not undercut them. But most businessmen still rightly resent government imposing pay and conditions on the private sector.

The CBI, however, has to be pragmatic. There is a good chance that it will have to do business with Labour after the next election. Mr Blair has offered the hand of co-operation by inviting businessmen on to the commission that would set the minimum wage. The CBI is right to ensure that it does not suffer the same fate under a Labour government as the TUC has under the Tories.

TEACH THE MANY

Class size matters less than it seems

The debate about class sizes has been one educational controversy in which many people have felt confident to participate. On the one side there has been an article of faith that the size of classes is the touchstone of a government's whole commitment to education, particularly the protection of the less able from neglect. On the other side, almost anyone over the age of 45 who attended a state primary school will have memories of the great majority of children being taught successfully in classes of up to 40.

The anecdotal experience of those former pupils has now been confirmed by more rigorous evidence. A report from the Office for Standards in Education has concluded that class sizes "have no statistically significant effect" on children's learning, except in the earliest years of infant schooling when more use of classroom assistants could provide the individual attention needed.

The Times has long expressed the view that teaching methodology and quality were more important than the number of children in a class. Ofsted's detailed comparative study supports that contention. Based on inspectors' reports of 200,000 lessons in more than 1,800 schools, it makes clear that the attainments of pupils are most directly related to the methods and abilities of teachers. A simple reduction in class numbers by a few pupils would be unlikely to have "any educational benefit".

One of the methods found most successful by the inspectors is "whole-class" teaching, which has been out of favour since the

Plowden revolution altered the priorities of primary teaching. In average-sized primary classes where inspectors judged the teaching to be excellent, 69.2 per cent made use of whole-class teaching as well as individual work. In classes where teaching was judged to be unsatisfactory or poor, there were notably fewer lessons involving whole-class teaching. This observation gets to the heart of the problem of primary teaching methods.

The very notion of being "instructional" has been unacceptable to educational orthodoxy. Education colleges have taught generations of students to believe that teaching consisted of facilitating the individual child's personal voyage of discovery. Whole-class teaching necessarily implies that a teacher is an authority figure who can presume to lead a large number of pupils in the same direction. It was ideology, not sound educational experience, which brought about the fragmenting of all class activity into individual or small group work.

This approach has been especially destructive because it allowed great scope for teachers' incompetence: lax discipline, wasted pupil time and general classroom chaos. Teachers' unions have been predictably quick to condemn these findings. Labour has seized upon one aspect of the report by promising to guarantee smaller infant school classes. But without addressing the educational philosophy that has made larger classes unmanageable — and the unions that defend it — no quick political fix will be a remedy for poor standards.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Fringe benefits of winning the votes of Middle England

From Dr Marjorie Mowlam, MP for Redcar (Labour)

Sir, Matthew Parris ("Tyranny of the middle", November 9) accused Tony Blair of turning his back on those at society's fringes — the poor, the homeless, the unemployed — in an unseemly bid to win the votes of Middle England.

He started with a good propagandist trick, that Tony allegedly told a delegation on behalf of the homeless that there were "no votes" in them. I challenge him to produce any evidence to back up his claims.

At Christmas last year Tony put forward a six-point plan for the homeless; the front bench has followed that up with constant attacks on the Government's failure to tackle homelessness. He made their plight and that of the unemployed the centrepiece of the call to "one-nation" policies in his party conference speech in October.

Gordon Brown has launched a highly imaginative scheme for the young unemployed as part of our Budget submission (report, November 10).

Even on Labour's social policy, Matthew Parris is wrong to suggest that "the bounds of those citizens in whom the Labour Party is not interested are increasing". It was not Labour but the Tories who got themselves into the middle over the domestic violence legislation (report, November 9).

It was not Labour who abolished the "right to silence" in criminal trials, but Conservatives. It is true Tony has said we will be tough on crime, as well as its causes: it is often the poorest who are most vulnerable to crime.

What makes Tories indignant is that we have reached out to new support in the territory they regard as theirs. It is true we have, unashamedly and rightly, made an appeal to Middle England, which rightly feels betrayed by the Tories. But we have broadened our appeal for two good reasons.

First, without appealing to the broad majority in society we can do nothing for those who are poor, unemployed or homeless. If Labour is not in power it is impotent, a mere party of protest.

But secondly, the real divide in Britain today is not between the poor and the rest: it is between the vast majority, including many middle-class people, who are either insecure or believe simply that Labour's policies are better for Britain, and the small elite

the Tories increasingly represent.

That we have that appeal shows we are, after a generation in the wilderness, serious about our politics. And it is that, I suspect, which Matthew Parris really resents. He seems to want Labour to be regarded as just the nation's conscience, patronised and then left to lose elections. Unfortunately for him those days are gone.

Yours truly,
MO MOWLAM,
House of Commons,
November 10.

From Mr Christopher Daw

Sir, Matthew Parris criticises Tony Blair for selling the dispossessed down the river in order to win over the voters of Middle England. He suggests that by doing so Blair and the rest of new Labour are in danger of losing their self-respect.

How much self-respect did old Labour have when their policies of principle (however unpopular) led to four consecutive Tory victories? If Labour had continued to be unselectable what thanks would they have got from the marginal groups which Matthew Parris feels so strongly about?

Any set of principles which results in perpetual opposition is utterly without merit. Tony Blair is right to recognise that compromises in political

campaigning make it possible to win elections. Once in power he will (like all prime ministers) do what he thinks is right and only then will the Labour Party regain its self-respect.

Yours faithfully,
CHRISTOPHER DAW,
211 Deansgate, Manchester 3.

From Mr Angus MacMillan

Sir, Matthew Parris accuses Labour of betraying those on the fringes of our society. As someone whose political leanings are well left of centre I too find it hard to countenance the Labour Party's apparent cynicism towards the large minority of those who are disadvantaged, and whose votes are either "in the bag" or insignificant.

However, with a Labour government in power there will at least be hope for those on the fringes, which is more than could be said were the Conservatives to continue in office after the next election. Perhaps Mr Parris should turn his critical eye on those who have created so much misery over the last 16 years rather than speculating about the potential shortcomings of those who will try to bring relief.

Yours sincerely,
ANGUS MACMILLAN,
5 Meadowside, Chelmsford, Essex,
November 9.

Taxing questions

From Mr Conrad Jenkin

Sir, Senior churchmen (letters, November 9) ask us to inquire of our politicians what they will do about the "forgotten 30 per cent" in our society.

Leaving aside the somewhat surprising claim that these people are "forgotten" — after all they receive billions of pounds of taxpayers' money every year, which hardly indicates they are "forgotten" — could we ask the churchmen to tell us what they would do, had they the power?

Raise the public sector borrowing requirement? To what level? Increase taxation? Cut the sums which go to A and B so that C and D could get more?

Or, if they think that it's all a matter of jobs, could these churchmen tell us how they would increase both jobs and the security of jobs without damaging some other aspect of the economy? All Western leaders would like to be let into the latter secret.

When the churchmen have given us

their answers, perhaps they could wonder how many votes they might get with their manifesto.

Yours faithfully,
CONRAD JENKIN,
Knapsay House,
West Meon, Hampshire,
November 8.

From the Right Reverend Paul Burrough

Sir, Politicians of all parties appear to suppose that the one concern of us "Middle England" is to see a reduction in taxation.

In fact many of us care little for a slight fall or rise in tax provided that there is sound and full education, a complete health service and help for the very poor — in low-cost rented accommodation and children's allowances.

Yours truly,
PAUL BURROUGH,
6 Mill Green Close,
Bampton, Oxfordshire,
November 8.

UN as peacekeepers

From Mr Ansel Harris

Sir, Malcolm Harper (letter, November 4) is right that "most responsible commentators agree that there is no military solution" to the Bosnia conflict. The Vance-Owen peace plan was to provide an interim political solution. It failed, and information emanating from Ohio (report, November 9) is equally discouraging.

As Misha Glenny points out in his recently republished *The Fall of Yugoslavia* the spiral of nationalist violence between the Serbs and Croats began before the war and the cause of the Bosnia tragedy is to be found in the republic itself. By organising parties along national lines, all three communities bear responsibility for the country's appalling fate.

It is as easy to point the finger at military failure as at political failure. The tragedy of the former Yugoslavia is a humanitarian failure.

Yours faithfully,
ANSEL HARRIS,
Palace Hotel,
Strossmayerov Square 10,
41000 Zagreb, Croatia,
November 9.

Parting of the ways

From Mrs Narguessa Stevens

Sir, A service for the "celebration" of a divorce (report, November 7; letters, November 10) is all very well, but where do the children stand: with both parents (for the last time); with the parent who won custody?

Are the children permitted to respond to the question, "Is there any impediment or reason why this couple should not be divorced?"

Yours faithfully,
NARGUESSA STEVENS,
6 Pond Cross Farm,
High Street, Newport, Essex,
November 11.

Family snapshots

From Dr Philip Stokes

Sir, May I remind those concerned about child photographs (letters, November 8) of the obvious fact that a photograph shows what it shows, and only what it shows. If it shows the commission of a crime, then it is evidence of that crime; unless it shows a crime it cannot on its own legitimately be criminal evidence.

Anything else a viewer infers from it is nothing other than a product of that viewer's mind, and if the inference is discreditable, then it is the viewer who is discredited.

Yours sincerely,
PHILIP STOKES,
Archive House, 14 Gordon Rise,
Mapperley, Nottingham,
November 8.

Letters for publication may be faxed to 0171-782 5046.

Buildings outlive precious guides

From the President of the Society for Medieval Archaeology

Sir, I write to express my society's concern about the virtual disappearance of the scholarly guides to Britain's ancient monuments, principally abbeys and castles, which were formerly published by the Department of the Environment and are now the responsibility of the department's successor bodies in England, Scotland and Wales.

At the Tower of London, for instance, I was told recently that the excellent guide by the late Professor Allen Brown was no longer available and that the remaining stock had been "given away to the public". The exact situation elsewhere is not clear, but it seems that many of these booklets, with their dated plans and plates, have fallen victim to current trading conditions.

Concern on this score is not confined to this country, as is shown by the following quotation (translated) from Jean Mesqui's great two-volume work on *Châteaux et Encintes de la France Médiévale* (1993):

It is impossible to cite here in detail the impressive and invaluable series of guides published by the Department of the Environment (Official Handbooks) which form a collection of incomparable richness, unequalled so far in their exhaustiveness and scientific quality in the other countries of Europe.

These publications have enjoyed their high reputation since the early years of the century. Dare one hope that they will survive, and indeed multiply, in the hands of the bodies now responsible for the administration of our ancient monuments?

Yours faithfully,
M. W. THOMPSON, President,
Society for Medieval Archaeology,
2 Offa Lea, Newton, Cambridge,
November 10.

Film was the spur

From Mr Geoffrey Dudman

Sir, Your obituary (November 2) of my friend Harry Percy, 11th Duke of Northumberland, said that the film in which he invested, *Lost in Africa*, was never released.

I was co-executive producer of the film, together with Harry, and I can assure you that although it has not been released in Great Britain it has played to good audiences in 22 countries, including France, Germany, Italy, Spain and Canada. Negotiations are currently taking place for a release in the US.

Lost in Africa was very dear to Harry's heart, and fulfilled his lifelong ambition to make a feature film and perform in it. He was a great trouper during the shoot. One day, playing the role of a tourist kidnapped by African poachers, he was dragged, hands bound, on a long rope into the poachers' village.

We had hired extras to throw special *papier mâché* rocks at the actors. The younger lads, enjoying this scene, threw them with great enthusiasm, but when they ran out of fake rocks, started to hurl real ones. Harry, bruised and bleeding, took no notice and gallantly finished the scene.

I spent many months with him in Los Angeles during and after production. There was one hilarious moment in a bank, when Harry tried to cash a traveller's cheque. "So your first name is Duke," said the cashier. "What's your second?"

Dear Harry was never fazed by any of this. He took it all in his stride, knowing that the only Duke that many Americans had heard of was Ellington.

Yours faithfully,
GEOFFREY DUDMAN,
1223 Sunset Plaza Drive,
Los Angeles, CA 90069,
November 8.

Out of sight

From Miss Anne Hardwick

Sir, The Victorians did not drape piano legs out of prudery ("Are we as prurient as the Victorians?", Nigella Lawson, November 7), but only because they liked to gussy everything up. Let's have no more of this silly allegation, please.

Yours sincerely,
ANNE HARDWICK,
48 Heathfield South,
Twickenham, Middlesex,
November 7.

Today's good news

From Lieutenant-Colonel Sir George Kennard

Sir, Last week I attended, as usual, the Field of Remembrance service at Westminster Abbey; once again Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother was present (report and photograph, November 10).

As I stood by our proud regimental plot of many crosses, an old soldier conrade of mine said to me: "So many nice things happen today that never get published, one only seems to read about the unpleasant things."

Wearing my ordinary campaign medals I returned home by taxi with a very young driver. On arrival he refused to accept any payment.

Yours sincerely,
LOOPY KENNARD,
13 Burton Court,
Franklyn Row, SW3,
November 12.

Bankside Tate

From Mr Gideon Nellen

Sir, It is curious that the Tate Gallery should seek to forgo the opportunity of using its allocation of lottery money to commission what will forever be its most important work of contemporary art — namely an entirely new art gallery designed by a modern master (report, October 31).

Instead, the trustees are planning to sink the funds into the remodelling of the Bankside Power Station; it would seem that the lottery grant does not allow for any more challenging alternative. The planned transformation might be interesting, and the ride up the tower a bit of fun, but the proposed design doesn't obscure the ugly carcass or contribute any elegance to the London Borough of Southwark, where it is so desperately needed.

Hopefully the private sponsors who are being approached will make this point to the trustees and persuade them to start again with a cleared site.

Yours sincerely,
GIDEON NELLEN,
Nellen & Co (solicitors),
19 Albemarle Street, W1.

Hard nuts to crack

From Mr Maurice Taylor

Sir, In this wonderful world of non-stick household appliances and utensils has no one yet thought of Teflonising the labelling or the packaging? Once upon a time we soaked away the labels in water. Today highly toxic solvents or even sledgehammers seem to be the only way through.

Yours sincerely,
MAURICE TAYLOR,
22 Claremont Hill,
Shrewsbury, Shropshire.

Keeping up courtesies

From the Reverend Ian Gregory

Sir, Your correspondent who inquires anxiously about the state of politeness in the older generation (letter, November 10) has placed a finger accurately upon a largely unacknowledged fallacy: that it is only the young who have forgotten their manners.

On behalf of my own generation — I was born in 1933 — I offer Mr and Mrs Nells of Whitchurch, Hampshire, our apologies. Many of my contemporaries are sour, truculent, envious, grasping relics, who cannot seem to appreciate the boundless privileges of life, especially for older people, at the end of this century compared with the miseries and privations of our grandparents' day.

We should know better.

Yours faithfully,
IAN G. GREGORY
(Founder, The Polite Society),
18 The Avenue, Basford,
Newcastle-under-Lyme,
Staffordshire,
November 10.

From Mrs Georgina Nightingale

Sir, I have recently returned from a visit to Canada. I knew I was home when I stood for some considerable time in a local shop, ignored, and the only potential customer, while the two assistants concluded their prolonged conversation.

We should wake up, before we are universally acclaimed the most unfriendly and discourteous country in the world. Or have we already achieved this?

Have a nice day.

Yours faithfully,
GEORGINA NIGHTINGALE,
Ivy Cottage, Enbridge Green,
Tunbridge Wells, Sussex.

OBITUARIES

JACKIE MANN

Jackie Mann, CBE, DFM, Battle of Britain fighter pilot and later a hostage in Beirut, died in Nicosia, Cyprus, yesterday aged 81. He was born on June 11, 1914.

IT WAS an ironic twist of fate which saw to it that Jackie Mann should have to display his remarkable resources of courage not once but twice. For two extended periods of his life he was required to endure hardships beyond the experience of most men.

As a sergeant pilot during the Battle of Britain he shot down six ME109s and was himself shot down four times, suffering serious burns in the process. Then, nearly 30 years later at the age of 74, he was kidnapped by Arab extremists in Beirut and held hostage in appallingly inhumane conditions for 2½ years.

The stories of his wartime exploits, and his behaviour as an archetypal English expatriate subjected to barbarous treatment in captivity, endeared him to the public. When he was released in September 1991, a Spitfire performed a victory roll over RAF Lyneham in Wiltshire as a mark of the RAF's respect for the dogged fortitude he had displayed.

Jackie Mann was born and brought up in Northampton. He learnt to fly with the Volunteer Reserves, determined to become a test pilot. But the war intervened. As an RAF sergeant pilot he flew many different types of aircraft, and took part in the evacuation of British troops from Dunkirk.

He was shot down four times but on each occasion managed to nurse his aircraft back to safe territory. He had a horror of baling out which dated back to the early days of the war when he had circled protectively about a colleague who had ejected, and watched the man's burning body drop out of the harness 1,000ft from the ground.

On one occasion, Mann's plane was hit with 15 cannon shells during a dogfight over the English Channel and he headed for the nearest land. He set the Spitfire down on a field, losing a wing in the process and killing two sheep. Believing he was in occupied France, he returned to the blazing cockpit to retrieve his parachute and threw it into a ditch hoping that the Germans would interpret its absence to mean that he had baled out and was miles away. Only when he approached a farmhouse, where a woman came out to commiserate in broad rural English, did he realise he was in Kent.

His last crash-landing occurred in April 1941 when his Spitfire's fuel tank was hit by a bullet as he crossed the French coast on his way back to base. Urged on by his deep-rooted fear of being taken prisoner he coaxed his burning aircraft all the way back to home territory. He crashed in a field and, although he himself was on fire, he took photographs of his burning plane before staggering to a farmhouse for help.

He was so badly injured that he was told it was unlikely he would ever fly again. Transferred to Queen Victoria Hospital in East Grinstead, Sussex, he became one of Sir Archibald McIndoe's early "guinea pigs". While



Jackie Mann with his wife Sunnie, 1992

being treated he met his future wife, Sunnie, who was organising recreational weekends for wounded servicemen, and who had already been married twice before. The couple married in 1943 at Croydon register office where Mann's RAF colleagues provided a guard of honour and offered an arch of poplars.

Treatment to Mann's extensive facial and body burns included the grafting of new eyelids. He also had cannon shell lodged close to his spine but he returned to the air, working as a night-fighter pilot and an instructor and rising to the rank of squadron leader. For 18 months he flew transport planes across the Atlantic to and from Canada.

In 1944 he was seconded to the fledgling British Overseas Airways Corporation. According to Sunnie Mann's autobiography *Holding On* (1990), at the end of the war her husband embarked briefly on a new career of smuggling cigarettes across the English Channel.

In 1946, however, he returned to more conventional flying, first by piloting Dakota freighters in the Mediterranean, based in Cyprus. Later in the year Mann became chief pilot for Middle East Airlines, initially flying Comets; his wife joined the airline as a stewardess and the couple moved to Beirut.

Mann remained with the airline for ten years and Sunnie Mann later established a riding school in Beirut. During the 1960s and the first half of the 1970s the city was the commercial

and social centre of the Arab world and the Manns became popular members of the expatriate community, renowned for their mildly eccentric Englishness. Mann sported an RAF handlebar moustache, spoke no Arabic, hated Lebanese food and insisted on a traditional English breakfast daily. In his own words, he was a beer-drinking, chain-smoking "crotchety old bugger".

Their living standards deteriorated as Lebanon slipped inexorably into civil war after 1975; the expatriate community dwindled but the Manns stuck resolutely to their normal routines, even when, after the 1982 Israeli invasion, their flat was bombed and their horses and pets killed.

After retiring as a pilot, Mann ran the English-style Pickwick Club in Beirut, earning the reputation of being an irascible host, until it closed in 1983. By this time the civil war had worsened and the expatriate community had experienced a spate of kidnappings by Muslim fundamentalist groups. The Manns had been reduced to living in a sixth-floor flat without benefit of a lift. Lacking funds, however, they had missed the opportunity to leave and start afresh elsewhere. Mann in any case considered himself to be too old and too poor to be worth kidnapping.

On May 12, 1983, he set off to the bank to collect the weekly housekeeping cash. Normally he would have picked up his groceries before crossing the road to a bar called the Captain's Cabin for a beer. But between the supermarket and the bank, in the main

shopping area of Hamra, he was bundled into a car and abducted.

He was the only one of the Western hostages in Lebanon to be kept alone for his entire confinement. Mann said that during his incarceration, he was chained to a wall, had to sleep on the floor and had access neither to radio nor to television. He was fed only Arab bread and cheese, ordered to put a towel over his head whenever his captors entered his dingy cell and was moved about in a cardboard box in a car boot. His guards refused to cut either his hair or his nails. He twice attempted to escape. By the time he was freed, in September 1991, he had lost over 40lb in weight.

His physical frailty was accompanied, however, by a dignity of spirit and an ebullient good humour. On his flight back to Britain he offered his services to the flight deck and jokingly flirted with the air stewardess. Two months later the Manns began a new life together in Cyprus.

They spent much of 1992 enjoying their new-found celebrity, and attending parties. Mann was appointed CBE, and a book was published recounting the couple's ordeal, *Yours Till the End*. But their happiness was brief. At the end of the year, after a short illness, Sunnie Mann died. Jackie Mann continued to live in Nicosia, surrounded by his wife's collection of poodles. But he never fully recovered his spirits after his wife's death, and had been in ill-health for some time.

Jackie Mann had no children himself, but is survived by a stepdaughter.

LT-COL DOUGLAS DE CENT

Lieutenant-Colonel Douglas de Cent, OBE, soldier and diplomat, died on October 18 aged 77. He was born on September 15, 1918.



IT WAS typical of Douglas de Cent that he once said: "Escape gave me my own liberty and kindled a desire to help those who were still, or destined to become, prisoners." During the Second World War he escaped from the hands of the Axis powers on at least two occasions and this led to his involvement with the Special Forces.

Douglas Cecil de Cent was born in Bridge, near Canterbury, Kent. His father was a naval surgeon who spent much time in the Pacific. Originally, he wanted to be a pianist, although this was not considered to be a suitable career by his family.

On the outbreak of war in 1939, he enlisted as a private in the Kent Yeomanry. In the spring of 1940 he was sent to France as a gunner with the British Expeditionary Force. Before long, like tens of thousands of others, he returned via Dunkirk.

Having been selected for officer training, he rejoined his regiment as a subaltern and found himself in the Western Desert, by way of South Africa, Bombay and Mesopotamia. At one time, he escaped death by a hair's breadth when a German shell splinter passed by his face. However, the real turning point of his career came when he was taken prisoner.

Jumping off the prison lorry, he escaped in the company of a colonel and almost succeeded in reaching British lines before being recaptured. From there de Cent was transported to Italy and interned. In prisoner of war camps at Sulmona and in Bologna, the escape attempts continued, despite a tunnel collapsing on one occasion when a heavily laden donkey walked over it.

He finally escaped just as his camp was being taken over

lieutenant-colonel at the age of 32, he was responsible for intricate land, sea and air operations and commanded an intelligence school. He was engaged in training units of the Commonwealth Brigade and US Forces in techniques of evasion and escape. He was appointed OBE for his service in Korea.

After a spell commanding a survival school in Austria and work at the Ministry of Defence, de Cent was appointed military attaché to the British Embassy in Laos. After three years in Indo-China, he was posted as head of the independent consular mission to eastern Indonesia, Dutch New Guinea and Portuguese Timor, which was the largest territorial mission of its kind in the Diplomatic Service.

Upon leaving government employ in 1963, de Cent put his diplomatic and intelligence-gathering experience to good use, becoming director of press and public relations at the Royal College of Nursing. At the RCN he instituted the annual members' congress and exhibition as well as the house newspaper, the *Nursing Standard*. He was also responsible for the planning and organisation of several notable pay campaigns.

He summed up his press and public relations philosophy as "to speak the truth, to meet deadlines, carry out promises and to keep a low profile. I was there to promote the college, not myself." After 20 years, he retired in June 1983.

Apart from his military and diplomatic careers Douglas de Cent was also active in supporting charity and relief work, aiding a Korean orphan's school and a school for blind children. A private and modest man, he was noted for his love of cricket, opera, good food and, especially, his generosity when opening his excellent and extensive wine cellar.

He was married three times and is survived by his third wife Theodora and both his previous wives. He also leaves a son and a daughter.

PROFESSOR TONY RAINE

Tony Raine, Professor of Renal Medicine, St Bartholomew's Hospital, London, died of colon cancer on October 14 aged 46. He was born on July 21, 1949.

THE early death of Tony Raine has deprived British nephrology of the outstanding intellect of his generation. His main contribution lay in focusing on the appallingly high death-rate from cardiovascular disease in patients with renal failure.

Anthony Evan Gerald Raine obtained his medical qualification in New Zealand in 1973, having two years earlier collected a first-class degree in physiology. Simultaneously with his medical qualification (and as evidence of his broad interests), he obtained a BA from the University of Otago in politics and psychology.

An excellent skier, golfer and pianist — as well as being an outstanding academic — he was awarded a Rhodes Scholarship and arrived at Merton College, Oxford, in 1974. As an undergraduate he published a paper in the *Journal of Physiology* and he was to remain primarily a physiologist with an interest in the kidney and cardiovascular system for the rest of his life.

In 1977 he was awarded a British Heart Foundation junior fellowship at Oxford and later that year was a visiting fellow in the department of Professor John Laragh in New York. He obtained his D Phil in 1978.

After almost a year as Medical Research Council travelling fellow in Basle, he became British Heart Foundation senior research fellow and honorary consultant physi-

cian in the Nuffield Department of Clinical Medicine and Renal Unit in Oxford. In 1988 he was awarded the Muehrcke-Milne fellowship by the British Renal Association and National Kidney Foundation of the United States for outstanding investigative work.

In 1988 members of the Department of Nephrology at St Bartholomew's Hospital, London, perceiving his obvious merits, wooed and won



him for Barts, where he was appointed consultant physician in renal and general medicine in September 1988. There he embarked immediately upon an extraordinarily productive academic, clinical, teaching and administrative career, quickly gathering around him an enthusiastic and loyal group of young scientists, both medical and non-medical. In 1991 he became senior lecturer at Barts Medical College and the following year was given the title

of Professor of Renal Medicine.

The title notwithstanding, he continued to carry out his full clinical, teaching and administrative commitments despite travelling and lecturing widely.

He served on the editorial boards of several publications, was treasurer of the British Hypertension Society, a member of the executive committee of the Renal Association and was president-elect of the section of nephrology of the Royal Society of Medicine at the time of his death.

He did outstanding work on the registry committee of the European Dialysis and Transplant Association, and was an examiner in MB for three universities, those of Manchester, London and Oxford. He organised numerous courses, including the British postgraduate Medical Education Advanced Nephrology Course between 1990 and 1995. In all, he published more than 150 original articles, editorials and book chapters and was the editor of *Advanced Renal Medicine*. His presentations to learned societies were legion.

As a clinician, Tony Raine was careful, courteous and outstandingly efficient. A perceptive patient once likened him to an expert jockey, waiting patiently and intently for the moment at which his charge could be coaxed from illness into health. As a teacher he taught his students how to think and was immensely popular. He was a civilised, amusing and loyal professional colleague.

He met his wife June in Oxford, where she graduated in medicine. She survives him, together with a son and daughter.

SYLVIA HAYMON

Sylvia Haymon, novelist and journalist, died on October 12 aged 79. She was born on October 17, 1915.

AMONG contemporary detective writers, few women have been so consistently praised by critics as Sylvia Haymon. She was compared favourably to P.D. James, and, like James, was regarded as a serious novelist who just happened to work within the conventions of the crime genre. But, while the quality of her writing was seldom questioned among crime enthusiasts, Haymon never burst onto the general public's consciousness with anything like the impact she deserved. One reason was that she started writing detective novels relatively late in life — in her mid-sixties after a career in journalism had ended. She produced a new novel every few years thereafter, and Constable had published seven of them by the time she died. She was inspired by the East Anglian landscape, and wove local landmarks into the fabric of her plots.

For instance, her first novel, *Death and the Pregnant Virgin* (1980), made reference to

Our Lady of Walsingham, Angleby, which she made the centre of police operations, was in fact a thinly-veiled model of Norwich, and her Poirot-figure, Detective Inspector Jurnet, took his name from that of the medieval Norwich Jew, Isaac de Jurnet. At other times, her stories were inspired by Greek myths or scientific themes. A *Very Particular Murder* (1989), for example, had a physicist for its murder victim.

Sylvia Theresa Rosen was the daughter of a master tailor. She was born in Norwich into a family which, without being orthodox, was very conscious of its Jewishness in a small community. Throughout her life the medieval expulsion of the Jews of Norwich was a subject which intrigued her and on which, among her papers, she left an unpublished novel. She wrote two volumes of autobiography about her childhood: *Opposite the Cross Keys* (1988) and *The Quivering Tree* (1990). The first was read as a *Book at Bedtime* on Radio 4.

Sylvia was educated in Norwich and London, and then went to the LSE, an experience which left her sceptical about political theorising. Her mar-



riage in 1933 to a solicitor, Mark Haymon, meant that she never finished the course. During the war she lived in America, where she worked as a buyer for a New York toy

shop. She had an astonishing memory and helped to keep the family solvent by winning prize money on radio quiz programmes. Returning to Britain in 1947, now with a

daughter, she started her broadcasting career on *Woman's Hour* in the early 1950s. At the same time she began to write, in a freelance capacity, for *The Lady*, *The Times* and *Punch*. But her journalistic career virtually ended in the late 1960s, after she refused to join the NUJ.

There followed historical books for children, including biographies such as *Bonnie Prince Charlie* (1969) and *King Monmouth* (1970) about the Duke of Monmouth. But it was for her crime novels that she became best known, and the second of these, *Ritual Murder* (1982), won the Crime Writer's Silver Dagger in 1983. Another is with her publishers, and will appear shortly.

Haymon chose to publish under the name of S.T. Haymon, because she wanted to be judged as novelist, not as a woman novelist. She worked hard at her writing, drafting everything in longhand before typing it up on an old manual machine, and she laboured to interrupt it in her hours.

Only recently did her family persuade her to use an electric typewriter. Her husband died three years ago, and she is survived by two daughters.

Church appointments

The Rev Canon Martin Baddeley, Joint Principal of the South East Institute for Theological Education, diocese of Southwark, is to be Archdeacon of Reigate, same diocese, succeeding the Ven Peter Coombs who retired at the end of August. The Rev Oliver Bayley, Rector, Bathampton w Claverton (Bath and Wells), is to be Chaplain Dauntsey's School, West Lavington (Salisbury). The Rev Harry Boreham, Vicar, Felixstowe Saints Peter and Paul (St Edmundsbury and Ipswich), is to be Priest-in-charge, Ramsgate St Mark (Canterbury). The Rev Valerie Brechin, Curate, Ipswich, All Hallows (St Edmundsbury and Ipswich), is to be Priest-in-charge, Bottisham and Lode w Longmeadow (Ely). The Rev Elizabeth Cummings, to be Chaplain, Stocken Prison, Rutland (Peterborough).

The Rev Derek Frost, Priest-in-charge, Seend and Bulkington, is to be Priest-in-charge, Seend, Bulkington and Poulshot (Salisbury). The Rev Nicola McIntosh, Assistant Priest, St Paul's, Ruislip Manor (London), is to be Assistant Priest (NSM), St John the Baptist, Leicester (Leicester). The Rev Christopher Moorson, Vicar, Banwell (Bath and Wells), is to be Rector, Upper Stour (Salisbury). The Rev Richard Press, Curate, Bradford-on-Avon Holy Trinity, is to be Priest-in-charge, Rowde (Salisbury). The Rev Arthur Quinn, Vicar, St John, Shirley, is to be also Rural Dean of Croydon Addington (Southwark). The Rev John Richards, Team Vicar, Christ the King, Shirley, is to be Priest-in-charge,

Yardley Wood (Birmingham). The Rev Richard Rosoman, Curate, Cradley, is to be Industrial Chaplain of the Black Country Urban Industrial Mission, and Assistant Priest, Christ Church, Coseley (Worcester). The Rev Warren Sellers, Team Vicar, Upper Kennet Team Ministry (Salisbury), is to be Team Rector, Upper Kennet Team Ministry (Salisbury). The Rev Brian Sharp, Team Vicar, St Christopher, Newington, and St Catherine, Mansion, in the St Laurence-in-Thames Team Ministry, is to be Vicar, Margate St John (Canterbury). The Rev James Singleton, Assistant Curate, St Thomas-on-the-Bourne (Guildford), is to be Team Vicar, Holt St James, and Priest-in-charge, Horton, Chisbury and Hinton Martel (Salisbury).

The Rev Geoffrey Startin, Vicar, Newton Cottage, Porthcawl, Church in Wales, is to be Priest-in-charge, Lydd All Saints (Canterbury). Resignations and retirements The Rev Nicholas Farbridge, Rector, Sherborne (Salisbury), is to retire December 31. The Rev Robin Ferguson, Rector, Milton Abbas, Hilton w Cheselbourne and Melcombe Horsey (Salisbury), is to retire May 31, 1996. Prebendary Colin Oldroyd, Rector, St Michael, Ledbury, St John Baptist, Eastnor, and Priest-in-charge, St Michael and All Angels, Little Marcle (Hereford), is to retire November 30. The Rev Simon Spilkin, Rector, Dickleburgh w Langmere and Shipmilling, Thelveton and Frenze, and Rushall (Norwich), is to retire December 31.

FUNERAL OF MR. G. PEABODY

Yesterday, a little after noon, the remains of the late Mr. G. Peabody were deposited in their temporary resting-place in Westminster Abbey, there to await their removal to America. It is understood that, although the departed philanthropist used to express a wish to end his days in England, he had constructed or ordered to be constructed a mausoleum in his native State of Massachusetts, looking forward to the day when his bones should rest among his own people.

The hour for the arrival of the funeral at the Abbey was fixed for half-past one, and about one o'clock the funeral cortege set out from the residence of Sir Curtis M. Lamson, 80, Eaton Square, where Mr. Peabody died. Following the time of route past St. Peter's Church and along Victoria Street, the procession arrived at the Abbey about half-past one. The pavements on either side of the streets and also the windows of many of the houses were crowded with spectators, and it was observable that the crowd was largely composed of the class which has so largely benefited by Mr. Peabody's munificence, and not a few were dressed in mourning. The crowd was most orderly and decorous, and showed all possible feeling of respect for the good man who was being carried to the

ON THIS DAY

November 13, 1869



The American philanthropist George Peabody (1795-1869) provided £500,000 for dwellings for the working class in London; many remain, administered by the Peabody Trust.

Abbey. The interior of the Abbey, to both the nave and choir of which admission was given by tickets, presented a very marked appearance, from the fact that everyone was dressed in mourning. It was observed that a very large proportion of the spectators present were unmistakably Americans; and, indeed, we believe that in the distribution of tickets the executors showed every possible anxiety that as many of Mr. Peabody's fellow countrymen as desired should be present on the melancholy occasion.

While the "Dead March" in *Saul* was being played, the mourners one after another

stepped forward to take a parting look at the coffin as it lay in its receptacle, near the third arch from the western door of the nave.

The Queen had expressed a great wish to see Mr. Peabody again, and to have some conversation with that excellent man. In fact, just before he left England, on the last occasion of his staying in this country, Her Majesty wrote a letter to him requesting him to let her know of his return to England, whenever that should be.

Immediately upon his arrival here, Mr. Peabody communicated the fact to Her Majesty. The Queen was aware that he was in delicate health, and conveyed to him her wish that on her return from Balmoral, he would visit her at Windsor, where, without being obliged to dine with her, or to go through anything which might be a fatigue to him, she could see him "quietly." When Her Majesty was made aware of the serious access of illness under which Mr. Peabody was labouring, she proposed to come and see him at Sir Curtis Lamson's house in Eaton Square, where he was staying. The rapid termination of the disease, however, rendered this impossible, to Her Majesty's deep regret.

It is said that one of Her Majesty's ships of war has been ordered to be got ready in order to carry the remains back to America.

NEWS

Water companies in cheating row

Three water companies have been accused of cheating customers by charging them for sub-standard services and clean-up schemes that have failed to materialise.

Ian Byatt, the Director General of the Office of Water Services, has ordered an investigation into a series of damning failures which include supplying contaminated water and missing targets on cutting leaks and breakdowns in supplies. Pages 1, 10

Nigeria causes Commonwealth crisis

Nigeria's military regime flagrantly defied world opinion after executing Ken Saro-Wiwa, the writer, and eight other activists. The executions plunged the Commonwealth into one of the worst crises in its history and jeopardised Nigeria's membership. Pages 1, 12, 13, 20, 21

MP faces inquiry

Allegations that a Tory MP offered to use his influence in Whitehall to act for a private company in return for shares, are to be studied by the new Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards. Page 1

Blair's promise

Tony Blair says a future Labour government will not introduce "penal" tax rates for high earners, and hails Labour as the party of enterprise. Pages 1, 21, 46, 48

Freedom for peace

Britain will underline its determination to press ahead with the Northern Ireland peace process with the release of 88 republican and loyalist prisoners. Page 2

Birthright drug victim

A girl was in a coma after taking an Ecstasy tablet at her 18th birthday party. Police said that the drug may have been part of a contaminated batch. Page 3

'Traitor' king

Edward VIII was an active player in a Nazi plot to betray the country, seeking revenge for being denied the throne after his abdication, according to claims in a television documentary. Page 5

Foreigners rule

The Highlands have become a playground for rich foreigners, with half of Scotland owned by just 500 people, few of whom are Scots. Page 7

Oxford censors porn to a degree

Oxford University students have been refused further access to soft pornography on the Internet after a survey showed it was more likely to be called up on college computers than academic subjects. More than 4,000 connections were made to an erotic video group last month, making it the fourth most popular item viewed by students and dons. Page 1

Teacher shortage

Growing interest in Religious Education has turned it into a "shortage subject" for which there are too few teachers. Bursaries are to be made available to attract trainee teachers to meet the increased popularity. Page 8

Serb pact

Serb leaders signed an agreement to hand back the last remaining section of Croatia still in their hands, averting what many feared could lead to war between Serbs and Croats. Page 11

Mata Hari medal

The only surviving member of the firing squad that executed the celebrated spy Mata Hari was awarded the Légion d'honneur. Page 11

American crisis

Newt Gingrich, the House Speaker, called on President Clinton to cancel his trip to an Asian-Pacific economic summit in Japan as an indefinite shutdown of the federal government seemed inevitable. Congressional Republicans and the White House made no progress towards resolving a budgetary impasse depriving the government of funds. Page 15

Rabin warning

Israel's Shin Bet security service acknowledged that it was told in advance of a plot to kill Yitzhak Rabin and was given a description that matched the confessed assassin. Page 15



Leaders remember Yitzhak Rabin, the murdered Israeli Prime Minister, at an Albert Hall service yesterday. Pages 15, 22

BUSINESS

CBI warning: The Confederation of British Industry has warned Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, against taking risks with public borrowing in a "give-away" Budget. Page 48

PIA threat: Pensions and investment advisers who fall foul of their regulator may soon be forced to pay for advertisements detailing their own failings, while new measures may enable the Personal Investment Authority to fine or expel individual salesmen from the industry. Page 48

Thames settles: A series of billing errors could cost Thames Water up to £2 million after the company reached an out of court settlement with three customers in a late payment dispute. Page 48

FEATURES

Hands-on duchess: "When you expose your inner being, it's a very emotional moment. I feel like a piece of jelly in a storm." The Duchess of Marlborough discusses her painting. Page 18

Mojo's daughter: Quentin Letts on plans to publish a novel by Victoria Gotti, the child of a Mafia family. Page 18

Wake-up call: Bacteria can starve to death. The majority survive for only a few weeks, sometimes a few months, without food. Or so it seemed until the 1990s. Page 19

Meteor watch: Astronomers are urging people to count shooting stars. It could aid the safety of space shuttle crews. Page 19

ARTS

Laughing matter: After years of playing second fiddle to the Americans, the makers of British sitcoms are finally getting their act together. The British species of the genre is blooming once again. Page 17

Mayhem: Metal sheets hammered in the rhythm of a football chant, saucers suspended from a wire and beaten: these are the sounds of Michael Nyman's new Trombone Concerto. Page 17

Note: Trinity College of Music, which not long ago appeared the poor relation to London's other conservatories, is raising its profile. Page 17

Building success: Sir Norman Foster does it again: his new Law Faculty at Cambridge is a transparent marvel. Page 16

SPORT

Cricket: Raymond Illingworth, the team manager, was "not satisfied" after an England XI were beaten by six wickets by South Africa A in their final match before the first Test that begins in Verwoerdburg on Thursday. Page 25

Football: Hitchin Town, Blyth Spartans and Gravesend and Northfleet, who beat Endsleigh Insurance League sides in the first round of the FA Cup, will meet Wycombe Wanderers or Gillingham, Stockport County and Cinderford, respectively, in the second round. Page 26

Motor racing: Damon Hill slipped into the local brogue to describe his two-lap victory in the Australian Grand Prix as "too easy, mate". Page 27

Rugby union: Mike Catt, the England stand-off half, trained with the squad yesterday and will be fit to play against South Africa at Twickenham on Saturday. Page 31

Rugby league: Carlisle, of the second division, who were trailing 18-10 at half-time, beat Castleford, of the championship, 19-18 in the first round of the Regal Trophy. Page 40

Racing: The Mackeson Gold Cup has been run for the final time. Next year, the race will become the Murphy's Gold Cup and will be the showpiece of a three-day festival at Cheltenham. Page 33

LOTTERY NUMBERS

23, 28, 48, 10, 7, 30. Bonus 3

TV LISTINGS

Preview: There is a discerning eye on the wall of an almost Dickensian workplace in *The Factory* (Channel 4, 9.00pm).
Review: Lynne Truss finds that, fly, one needs both feet on the ground in *Great Moments in Aviation*. Page 47

Well-oiled tyranny

There are only two things that would hurt Nigeria hard, and fast: the freezing of the ruling clique's overseas bank accounts; and depriving them of the oil revenues that they steal. Page 21

Blair's business

It makes sense for the CBI to ensure it does not suffer the same fate under a Labour government as the TUC has under the Tories. Page 21

Teach the many

Without addressing the educational philosophy that has made larger classes unmanageable — and the unions that defend it — no quick political fix will be a remedy for poor standards. Page 21

MATTHEW PARRIS

Cruel, corrupt or totalitarian government may not be popular with Africans, but it is not an evil they have often resisted to the point of sustained self-sacrifice. How far, then, ought our own passions and interests to be spent in such a cause? Page 20

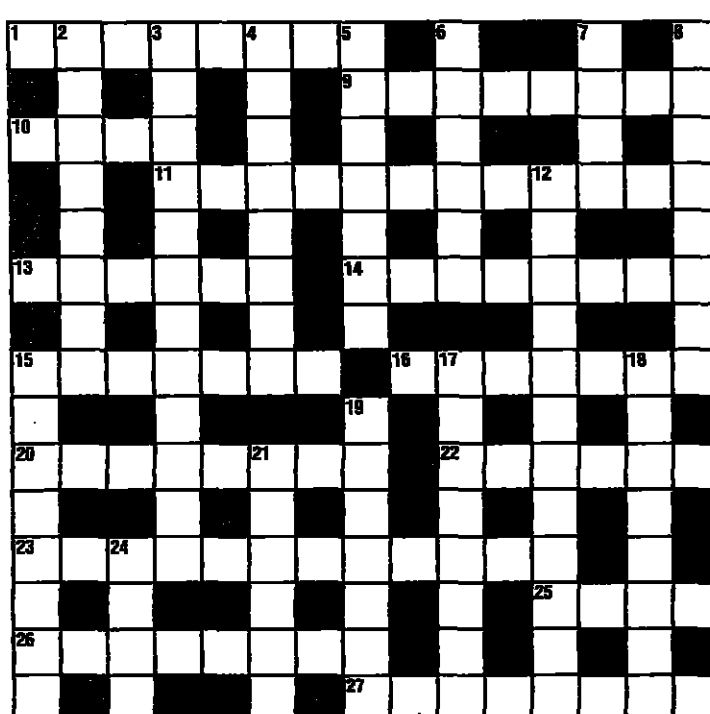
Jackie Mann: Battle of Britain fighter pilot and later a hostage in Beirut; Lieutenant-Colonel Douglas de Cent, soldier and diplomat; Sylvia Haymon, novelist; Tony Raine, professor of renal medicine. Page 23

Labour wooes voters of Middle England: the vanishing guides of ancient monuments; agricultural reform; Bosnia; Remembrance Day. Page 21

For two years, General Sani Abacha's military government has been systematically eliminating its critics... The suppression of dissent has given a corrupt clique of generals a free hand to loot Africa's most populous country and drive it toward a new civil war.

— The New York Times

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,011



ACROSS

- 1 Showing a swollen head, the outcome of snake bite (8).
- 9 Means of evading difficult situation following aerial manoeuvre (8).
- 10 Thoroughly boring (4).
- 11 Which picture comes first if cine poster is wrong? (12).
- 13 River transport is greatly appreciated abroad (6).
- 14 About to make no bid in bridge (8).
- 15 What's replacing the acre? (7).
- 16 Nothing in stores must be put back bent (7).
- 20 See chap after fight totter (5-3).
- 22 Fruit is gathered in the wet (6).
- 23 Influence leaders, manipulating Tories' dailies, mostly (12).
- 25 Drama about a really ancient mariner (4).

DOWN

- 26 Create workers' group — most of section is in one (8).
- 27 Went through again with invading English and raised siege (8).
- 2 Open flower beginning to show (8).
- 3 Artist's profile that's missing is possibly this? (4-8).
- 4 Fake in collection I'm covering with gold (8).
- 5 Excess weight for overeater (7).
- 6 Said to be deer's way of eating salmon (6).
- 7 Holy man abandoning chaste way of life (4).
- 8 Visibly angry about contract that's delivered (8).
- 12 State's capital under one million, showing lack of economic planning (12).
- 15 He's the country's leading light (8).
- 17 Mice, perhaps, losing head in short story — it's the end (8).
- 18 Travel abroad for good opening in Middle Eastern state (8).
- 19 It will help breathing in healthy air, ultimately (7).
- 21 What's over the border? (6).
- 24 Flag of neighbouring country not hard to see (4).



The solution of Saturday's Prize Puzzle No 20,010 will appear next Saturday. The five winners will receive a bottle of Knocklands, a superb Speyside Single Malt Scotch Whisky and a fine leather credit card wallet.

Times Two Crossword, page 48

TIMES WEATHERCALL

For the latest region by region forecast, 24 hours a day, dial 0330 500 followed by the appropriate code.

| | |
|--------------------------------------|-----|
| Greater London | 701 |
| Kent, Surrey, Sussex | 702 |
| Devon & Cornwall | 703 |
| Wiltshire, Gloucestershire, Somerset | 704 |
| West Midlands | 705 |
| North Midlands | 706 |
| North East | 707 |
| Yorkshire & Lancashire | 708 |
| North West | 709 |
| West Midlands | 710 |
| East Midlands | 711 |
| East of England | 712 |
| London & Home Counties | 713 |
| Wales & South Wales | 714 |
| Wales & North Wales | 715 |
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| Wales & North Wales | 717 |
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| Wales & South Wales | 744 |
| Wales & North Wales | 745 |
| Wales & South Wales | 746 |
| Wales & North Wales | 747 |
| Wales & South Wales | 748 |
| Wales & North Wales | 749 |
| Wales & South Wales | 750 |

AA ROADWATCH

For the latest AA traffic/roadworks information, 24 hours a day, dial 0330 500 followed by the appropriate code.

| | |
|--|-----|
| London & SE traffic, roadworks | 731 |
| Area within M25 | 732 |
| Essex, Hertfordshire, Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire | 733 |
| Kent, Surrey, Sussex, Hampshire | 734 |
| M25 London Orbital only | 735 |
| National traffic and roadworks | 736 |
| National motorways | 737 |
| West Country | 738 |
| Wales & Home Counties | 739 |
| Wales & North Wales | 740 |
| Wales & South Wales | 741 |
| Wales & North Wales | 742 |
| Wales & South Wales | 743 |
| Wales & North Wales | 744 |
| Wales & South Wales | 745 |
| Wales & North Wales | 746 |
| Wales & South Wales | 747 |
| Wales & North Wales | 748 |
| Wales & South Wales | 749 |
| Wales & North Wales | 750 |

HIGHEST & LOWEST

Yesterday's highest day temp: Home Bay, Kent; and St. Bees Head, Cumbria, 16C (61F); lowest day max: Llanwr, W. (43F); highest rainfall: Penryn, Cornwall, 1.5in; highest sunshine: Corwen, North Wales, and Margate, Kent, 5.9h.

FLIGHT SAVERS

£58
LONDON TO EDINBURGH OR GLASGOW
Phone Air UK on 0345 666777 or contact your travel agent. All major credit cards accepted. Subject to availability and airport tax. Restrictions apply.

FORECAST

General: England and Wales will be generally cloudy with outbreaks of light rain or drizzle. Drier, brighter weather will spread from the west from late morning, reaching East Anglia later in the afternoon. South Wales and southwest England will see the best of any sunshine, but here showers will develop. Scotland and Northern Ireland will be generally cloudy, with outbreaks of light rain. This will die out and some bright or sunny spells develop.

London, SE England, Central S England, Channel Isles: cloudy, light rain dying out, sunny spells developing. Wind light south-easterly. Warm. Max 15C (59F).

E Anglia, E Midlands, E England, W Midlands, North Wales, NW England, Lake District, Isle of Man, Central N, SW Scotland:

Glasgow, Argyll, Northern Ireland:

mainly cloudy, light rain dying out, some sunny spells later. Wind light southerly. Warm. Max 14C (57F).

SW England, S Wales: sunny and scattered showers. Wind brisk south-westerly. Max 13C (55F).

NE England, Borders, Edinburgh & Dundee, Aberdeen, Central Highlands, Moray Firth, NE Scotland, NW Scotland: cloudy with outbreaks of rain dying out, some sunny spells later. Wind light south-easterly. Warm. Max 13C (55F).

Orkney, Shetland: cloudy with outbreaks of rain. Wind moderate south-easterly. Max 12C (54F).

Outlook: bright in the south, but rain spreading cooler conditions from the north.

AROUND BRITAIN YESTERDAY

24 hrs to 5 pm: b=brilliant; c=cloud; d=drizzle; de=dead calm; ds=drizzle; f=fog; g=gale; h=halt; i=rain; sh=shower; sl=sleet; sn=snow; s=sun; t=thunder

| Area | Sun | Rain | Max | Min |
|-----------------|------|------|-----|-----|
| Aberdeen | 0.21 | 10 | 50 | 40 |
| Anglesey | 0.18 | 15 | 59 | 47 |
| Armagh | 0.8 | 10 | 52 | 40 |
| Ashford | 0.15 | 11 | 52 | 40 |
| Avonmouth | 0.15 | 11 | 52 | 40 |
| Belfast | 0.15 | 11 | 52 | 40 |
| Birmingham | 0.15 | 11 | 52 | 40 |
| Bognor R. | 0.15 | 11 | 52 | 40 |
| Bournemouth | 0.15 | 11 | 52 | 40 |
| Bristol | 0.15 | 11 | 52 | 40 |
| Burton | 0.15 | 11 | 52 | 40 |
| Cardiff | 0.15 | 11 | 52 | 40 |
| Carlisle | 0.15 | 11 | 52 | 40 |
| Cheltenham | 0.15 | 11 | 52 | 40 |
| Chesham | 0.15 | 11 | 52 | 40 |
| Colchester | 0.15 | 11 | 52 | 40 |
| Cornwall | 0.15 | 11 | 52 | 40 |
| Doncaster | 0.15 | 11 | 52 | 40 |
| Dunfermline | 0.15 | 11 | 52 | 40 |
| Eastbourne | 0.15 | 11 | 52 | 40 |
| Edinburgh | 0.15 | 11 | 52 | 40 |
| Exeter | 0.15 | 11 | 52 | 40 |
| Farnham | 0.15 | 11 | 52 | 40 |
| Folkestone | 0.15 | 11 | 52 | 40 |
| Glasgow | 0.15 | 11 | 52 | 40 |
| Guernsey | 0.15 | 11 | 52 | 40 |
| Heathrow | 0.15 | 11 | 52 | 40 |
| Hemel Hempstead | 0.15 | 11 | 52 | 40 |
| Hove | 0.15 | 11 | 52 | 40 |
| Huntingdon | 0.15 | 11 | 52 | 40 |
| Inverness | 0.15 | 11 | 52 | 40 |
| Jersey | 0.15 | 11 | 52 | 40 |
| Kilnabeg | 0.15 | 11 | 52 | 40 |
| Lancaster | 0.15 | 11 | 52 | 40 |
| Lough Linn | 0.15 | 11 | 52 | 40 |
| Lough Neagh | 0.15 | 11 | 52 | 40 |
| Lough Ree | 0.15 | 11 | 52 | 40 |
| Lough Swilly | 0.15 | 11 | 52 | 40 |
| Lough Vanny | 0.15 | 11 | 52 | 40 |
| Loughs | 0.15 | 11 | 52 | 40 |
| London | 0.15 | 11 | 52 | 40 |
| London Heathrow | 0.15 | 11 | 52 | 40 |
| London Luton | 0.15 | 11 | 52 | 40 |
| London Stansted | 0.15 | 11 | 52 | 40 |
| London Gatwick | 0.15 | 11 | 52 | 40 |
| London City | 0.15 | 11 | 52 | 40 |
| London Heathrow | 0.15 | 11 | 52 | 40 |
| London Luton | 0.15 | 11 | 52 | 40 |
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| London Stansted | 0.15 | 11 | 52 | 40 |



25

Australian victory finally lifts Hill's hopes



29

Hitchin ride high on FA Cup upset



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Victory for France lifts pressure on captain

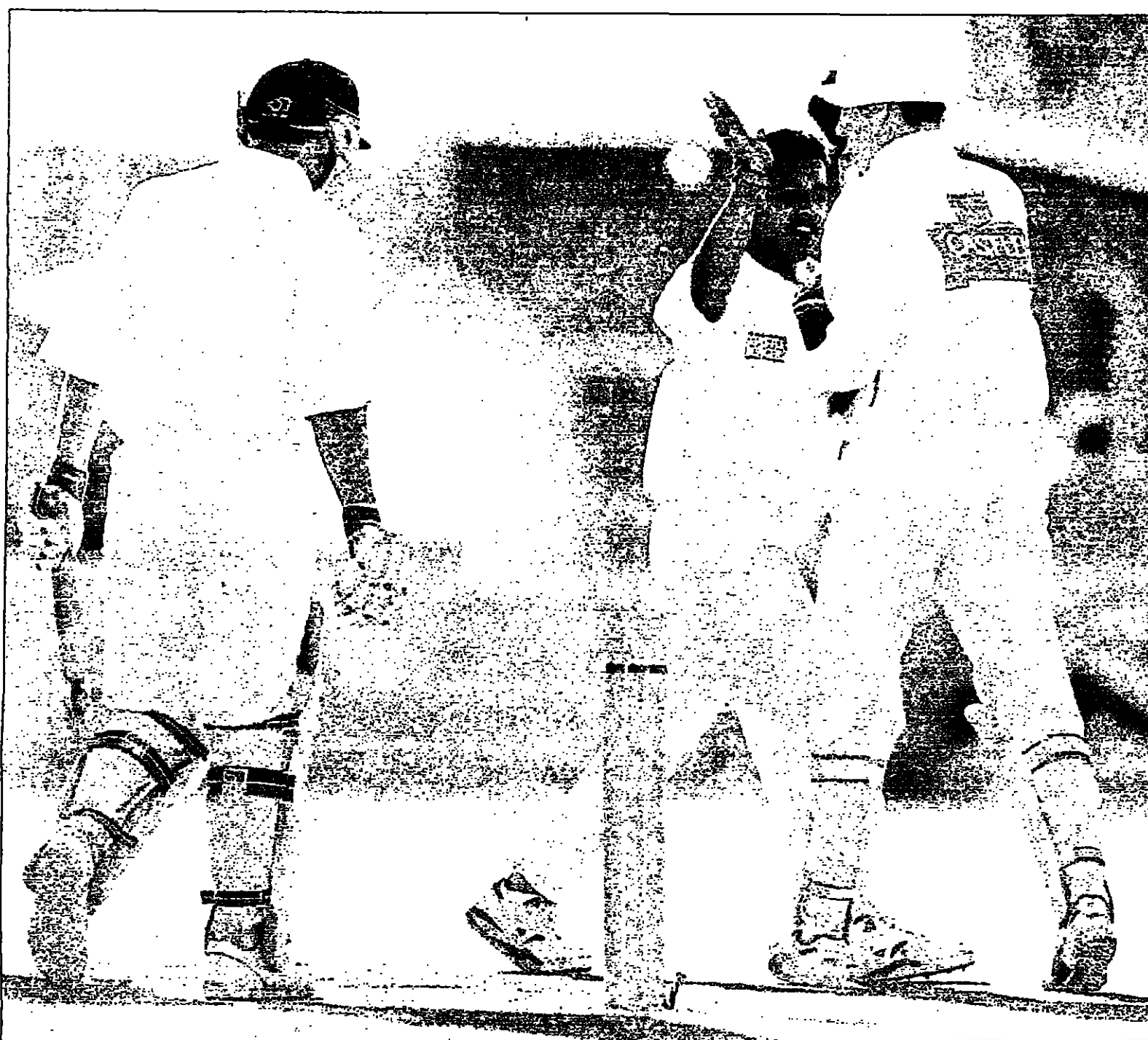


32

Falls bring jump experiment to tragic conclusion

TIMES SPORT

MONDAY NOVEMBER 13 1995



The gloom deepens for England as Adams celebrates the wicket of Rampkrash, given out leg-before to the wrist spinner



The end is nigh as Watkinson is also out leg-before, bowled by Adams ...



... who completes a five-wicket haul when Fraser is caught soon afterwards

England face testing time

FROM ALAN LEE
CRICKET CORRESPONDENT
IN KIMBERLEY

KIMBERLEY (final day of tour): South Africa A beat England by six wickets

THE expressions of Raymond Illingworth tend more towards the inscrutable than the transparent and the tour manager's face grew descriptively thunderous during a weekend that significantly retarded England's Test preparations. This evening, at a team meeting in Johannesburg, Illingworth will tell his players some unflattering home truths. "I think they will understand what I mean," he said grimly.

They need not only to understand Illingworth's words but to apply them immediately, for a repeat of the feckless cricket that caused their defeat here by a scratch South Africa A side will inevitably see them follow the dispiriting pattern of recent tours by losing the first Test, which starts this week.

On a pitch that was scarcely more disabbling to bat upon after four days than it had been after the game began, England suffered the indignity of following-on and then failed to redeem themselves by batting out the match. Paul Adams, the teenage curiosity whose action has been memorably likened to that of a frog in a blender, added five more wickets to his first-innings four, and although England raised a fight when the game was all but lost, the South Africans made the 148 required with four overs and one ball to spare.

"I am not satisfied," was Illingworth's succinct comment on the England batting.

"We had six major batsmen and, on that pitch, someone should have made a big score. We have talked about it and I will be telling them what I think again tomorrow. It's a mental thing more than anything and the players have to give the job the concentration and dedication it requires."

The most committed, adhesive batting in both England innings came from Jack Russell. Cutting a comic figure in button-down sleeves and sunglasses, he batted almost five hours for scores of 93 not out and 40, but his prospects of promotion to No 6 within a Test team of five bowlers on Thursday have, paradoxically, faded through the failings of others. Some senior players ought to be ashamed of the strokes that they played and, if Graham Thorpe ever endures a more embarrassing innings than the one he perpetrated on

Saturday, he will be tempted by immediate retirement.

For fully an hour, after being stumped aiming a wild slog at Adams, Thorpe sat silent and penitent in a corner of the dressing-room. Illingworth, whose spirits remain high despite his anger over this performance, offered a

The latter featured an unbeaten 48 from Devon Malcolm that included six sixes and some studiously selective defence. From the point of view of Test selection, the only pity is that he does not look a better bowler.

Malcolm was wicketless in two spells as the South Afri-

rest on the assessment of the pitch that will dictate the final balance.

Illingworth, whose advance information indicates that the Centurion Park pitch may not be as quick as was first expected, insists he is keeping all options open, even the possibility of playing two spin bowlers. Bob Woolmer, the South Africa coach, has hinted that he may be shifting away from an all-seam policy to include his left-arm spinner, Clive Eksteen, a move that could be confirmed if doubts persist about the fitness of the formidable, but hardly robust, Brett Schultz.

Schultz, whose anonymity to English eyes has thus far been carefully preserved, made a precautionary withdrawal from bowling during a Castle Cup match over the weekend, complaining of a strained buttock muscle.

South Africa still expect him to be fit and so does the England captain, Michael Atherton, who spent Saturday evening poring with pen and notepad over videos of Schultz's bowling.

Atherton was less bothered than his team-mates by Adams, whose subtlety is in sharp contrast to the sledgehammer of Schultz. The captain alone had no trouble picking the "chimpanzee", the quicker ball that darts back into the right-hander, though his third-ball nought on Saturday ensured that he was not around long enough to demonstrate it.

Stewart, who was dropped at mid-on before repeating the shot without such fortune, was almost as culpable as Thorpe, and Rampkrash, who became introspective after a fluent start, was out to Saturday's last ball. At least Robin Smith had another two hours' batting yesterday morning, convincing Illingworth that he has done enough to confirm Test inclusion.

The contest of the day, perhaps of the match, was Adams bowling to Russell, and this was one of the few battles that England can claim to have won. After Adams had ended the last-wicket frolics, completing match figures of nine for 181, the fallen Fraser came out to bowl his most penetrating spell of the tour.

It was long-term encouragement rather than short-term salvation and all Illingworth could say by way of consolation was that such defeats "sometimes concentrate the mind. It's as well it has happened here rather than next week."

The Times analyses England's first cricket tour to South Africa for 30 years Pages 35-38

sarcastic excuse for his batsmen. "It was very hot out there," he said. "Maybe the sun got to their heads."

It was indeed enervatingly hot yesterday, the shade temperature topping 100F, but the ineptitude of the top-order batting was put into context both by Russell and by last-wicket stands of 46 in the first innings and 59 in the second.

cans cruised to victory and he can now be included in the Test side only if it is thought the psychological factor demands it. His nine for 57 at The Oval 15 months ago remains a vivid memory here, but only to those who have not witnessed his toiling form on tour. Cork, Gough and Fraser can all legitimately be chosen ahead of him and his fate may

SCOREBOARD FROM KIMBERLEY

| | |
|--|------------|
| SOUTH AFRICA A: First Innings 470 for 9 dec (A M Bacher 116, J H Kallis 93, L Kusemer 61) | |
| Second Innings | |
| P J R Stuyt c Hick b Fraser | 16 |
| A M Bacher c Russell b Fraser | 39 |
| J H Kallis c Russell b Fraser | 93 |
| G P Thorpe c Adams b Fraser | 54 |
| L J Watkinson not out | 18 |
| L Kusemer not out | 16 |
| Extras (w 1, nb 3) | 4 |
| Total (4 wickets, 38.5 overs) | 148 |
| FALL OF WICKETS: 1-30, 2-40, 3-106, 4-115 | |
| BOWLING: Fraser 15-4-49-3; Malcolm 7-0-27-0; Gough 6-0-33-1; Watkinson 7-5-0-32-0; Hick 1-0-7-0 | |
| ENGLAND: First Innings | |
| M A Atherton b b Kusemer | 63 |
| A J Stewart b Adams | 34 |
| M R Rampkrash c Palfman b Kallis | 1 |
| G P Thorpe c Palfman b Adams | 1 |
| G A Hick c and b Adams | 0 |
| R A Smith c Palfman b Kallis | 48 |
| J R C Russell not out | 62 |
| M Watkinson b Bole | 2 |
| D Gough c Palfman b Bole | 26 |
| A R C Fraser b b Kallis | 13 |
| D E Malcolm b Adams | 32 |
| Extras (b 14, b 9, w 9) | 32 |
| Total (108.5 overs) | 308 |



Russell is a frustrated observer from the non-striker's end as England collapse. Photograph: Rebecca Naden

Wizard Warne, page 26
Hussain prospers, page 26

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| £30,000 to £40,000 | 12.5% | £20,000 | £24.50 | £24.77 |
| £40,000 to £50,000 | 12.5% | £20,000 | £24.50 | £24.77 |
| £50,000 to £60,000 | 12.5% | £20,000 | £24.50 | £24.77 |
| £60,000 to £70,000 | 12.5% | £20,000 | £24.50 | £24.77 |
| £70,000 to £80,000 | 12.5% | £20,000 | £24.50 | £24.77 |
| £80,000 to £90,000 | 12.5% | £20,000 | £24.50 | £24.77 |
| £90,000 to £100,000 | 12.5% | £20,000 | £24.50 | £24.77 |

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Warne's flight sends Pakistan into the depths

FROM MICHAEL HENDERSON IN BRISBANE

SHANE WARNE continues to write his own notices. Australia's master leg spinner bowled out Pakistan on Saturday and will try to do so again today when the touring team, following on three wickets down, resume 169 runs behind. An Australia victory in the first match of a three-Test series is, apparently, assured.

Warne took all six remaining wickets in the Pakistan first innings before lunch on the third morning, to give him figures for the innings of seven for 23, and a total of 183 victims in only his 39th Test. It was his second-best return in Tests, headed by the eight for 71 he recorded when England capitulated on this ground a year ago. The only better bowling performance in Test matches at the Gabba ground is the nine for 52 by Richard Hadlee for New Zealand in 1985.

The Pakistan total of 97 (strictly "for nine", as Salim Malik, injured while taking a catch, did not bat) was their lowest at Brisbane and a lamentable effort. Aamir Sohail and Inzamam-ul-Haq put matters into perspective in the second innings, which stands at 197 for three.

Sohail, wretchedly, fell one run short of a century when Glenn McGrath summoned up a superb yorker from round the wicket. Inzamam is still there on 56, having played Warne so far with a discretion his colleagues would do well to observe.

There was another Australia landmark, too. When Ian Healy caught Elahi at the start of the Pakistan second innings it was his 250th dismissal in his 74th Test. Wherever one looks in this talented, committed side there is a player with something to celebrate. Today it may well be McGrath. He has taken the three wickets to fall so far and is shaping into a fine fast-medium bowler.

Warne bridled a bit when, on the eve of this Test, he was

asked to respond to Malik's judgment that his variations were easy to pick. It was a shame the batsman did not appear in the middle on Saturday so he could have seen, at first hand, that Warne achieves as much from flight and bounce as he does from mere "rip". The truth, as Oscar Wilde said, is rarely pure and never simple and Malik will have to face up to it when his left hand heals fully.

Pakistan need his expertise against the turning ball because, not for the first time, they batted as though under a curse. After Sohail went, efficiently stumped by Healy, the innings became a procession of witless souls. Australia needed only 41 overs and one ball to wrap the innings up. Paul Reiffel, the supporting

pace bowler, was not required at all.

The application Australia bring to their fielding, as well as their batting, reveals the extent of the gulf between these teams. Mark Taylor collected three catches in the innings and there were good ones held by Steve Waugh, Craig McDermott and Greg Blewett. The quality of fielding is usually a reliable barometer of a team's spirit, and Australia are supremely confident. Their running, intercepting and throwing are also far superior.

Warne has not received excessive help from the pitch. Australia, after all, made 463 on it and there is nothing at all mischievous about the bounce. Bowling into the breeze he has made the ball dip and got his top-spinner to kick a bit. It was just one of those days, and he often has them at the Gabba: his 26 Test wickets here have cost fewer than ten runs each.

Sohail set the tone for the Pakistan second innings with a succession of lovely drives, moving to his half-century in 56 balls. Thereafter he contained his exuberance, although he continued to deal severely with the bad ball. He has made only two Test hundreds, a poor record for a good player, and a third appeared certain until McGrath pierced his defences.

McGrath has bowled splendidly in this innings, and appears close to a breakthrough in his career, from promising bowler to fully-fledged Test performer. If he can build on the impression he made in the Caribbean earlier this year, when there was no McDermott at the other end, he will end this Australian summer in clover. It helps to play in a settled, successful side, as a couple of the Pakistan team could tell him. Barring a cloudburst, Australia should win with a day to spare.



Warne, who took seven Pakistan wickets for 23 runs, bowls his leg-breaks in Brisbane

Hussain shows authority in timely fashion

BY OUR SPORTS STAFF

NASSER HUSSAIN played an innings of authority in Lahore yesterday to boost both his own senior prospects and the tour hopes of his England A side. Hussain hit a three-hour 83, his fourth score above 50 in four Test innings. Together with Jason Gallian's 67 from 90 balls, with 12 fours, he helped England A to 199 for five in reply to the Pakistan Board XI's 301 all out.

After a frustrating opening day of the four-day fixture, the England A attack also showed its teeth with Dean Headley (five for 68) and Craig White (three for 74) destroying the home side's lower order. The Pakistani XI lost their last six wickets for just 29 runs, with Headley, the Kent bowler who took three wickets the previous day, continuing to impress.

White's burst of bowling form delighted the England A management and Hussain, the captain, in the last game before the international match against Pakistan A in Multan next week.

"Craig struggled yesterday when his 11 overs cost 53 runs. But I think that was more a case of him being a bit tentative after not a lot of bowling on the tour because of his thumb injury," Hussain said. "I reckon only Devon Malcolm of English-qualified bowlers is quicker than Craig

— I'd put him right up there for speed alongside the likes of Darren Gough."

Hussain and Gallian added 117 before Gallian, of Lancashire, having just decided to call out a runner so as to protect a niggling hamstring strain, was caught at long-off.

Anthony McGrath, 20, the emerging batting prospect from Yorkshire, kept Hussain company for a while and finished on 26 not out. The England A captain's stay ended when he mistimed a pull at a delivery which skidded on to him. The bowler, Mubashir Nazeer, 19, has a run-up and action which is the image of Waqar Younis's and has clearly been admirably copied.

Mubashir might not yet be quite as quick as Waqar, but he still whistled one through Jason Pooley's defences to bowl the Middlesex batsman for a second-half duck. Ronnie Irani also failed to make it to the close, falling leg-before to the left-arm spinner, Iftikhar Asghar's, faster ball.

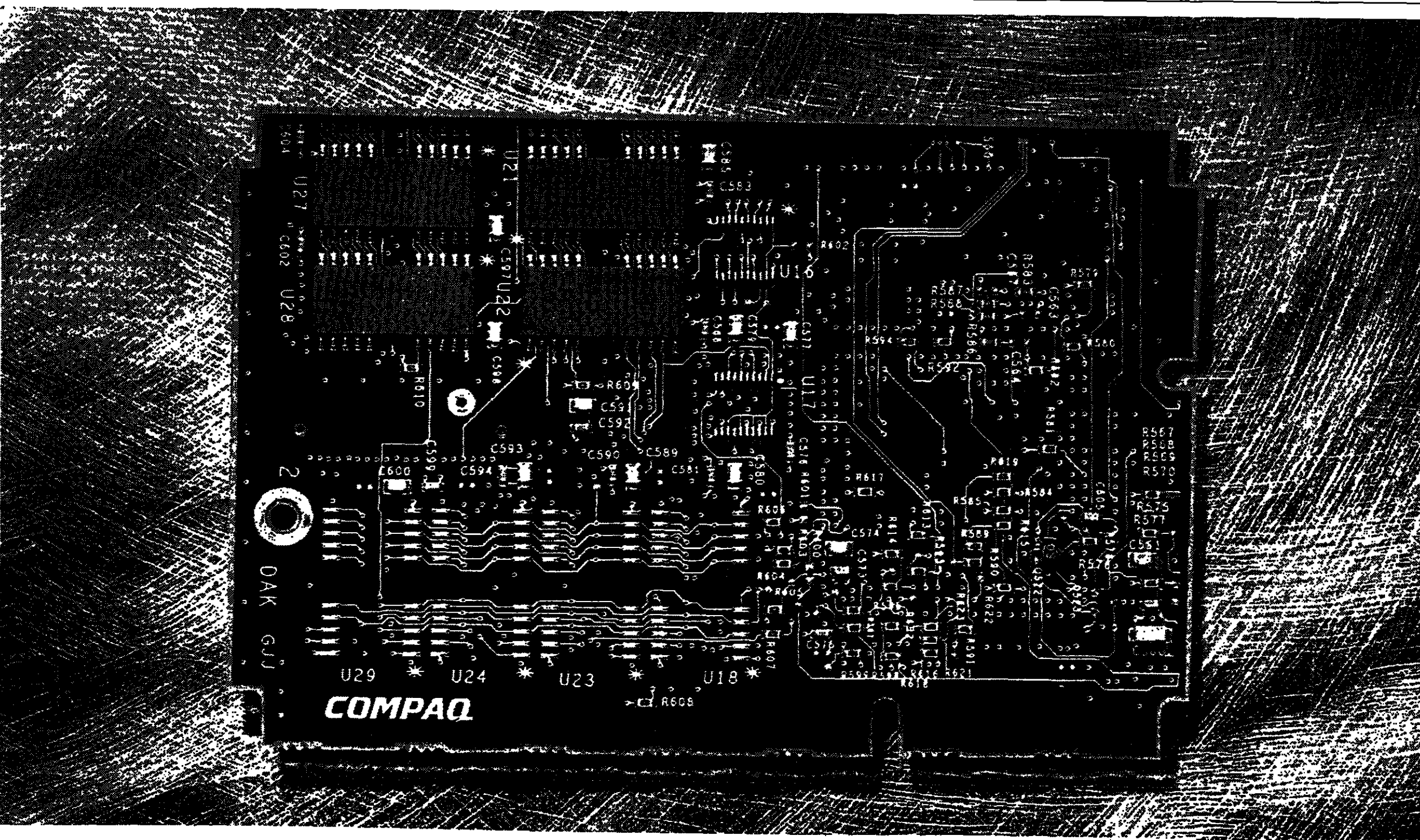
CI Narendra Hirwani, the India leg spinner, celebrated his return to the side after a five-year absence by taking six for 59 as New Zealand finished the rain-hit third and final Test match in Cuttack on 175 for eight in reply to India's 296 for eight declared. India won the first Test to secure the series 1-0.

LAHORE DETAILS

| PAKISTAN BOARD XI: First Innings | |
|--|-----|
| Javed Sami c Gallian b Headley | 11 |
| Adil Khan c Piper b Headley | 57 |
| Shoaib Akhtar c Knight b Headley | 61 |
| Saeed Azad c Piper b Headley | 117 |
| *Aamir Hamid c Stump b Irani | 0 |
| Waqar Khan c Stump b Headley | 27 |
| Maged Elrayes c Irani b White | 6 |
| Iftikhar Asghar c Knight b White | 6 |
| Fahad Khan c Piper b White | 0 |
| Shoaib Akhtar run out | 0 |
| Mubashir Nazeer not out | 16 |
| Extras (b 8, lb 3, nb 5) | 16 |
| Total (88.2 overs) | 301 |
| FALL OF WICKETS: 1-22, 2-109, 3-198, 4-205, 5-272, 6-276, 7-289, 8-289, 9-301. | |
| BOWLING: Headley 27.2-5-68-5; White 19.2-7-3-7; Stump 27.6-10-0; Irani 11.2-26-1; Saibury 7-1-37-0; McGrath 5-1-9-0. | |
| ENGLAND A: First Innings | |
| N V Knight c Waqar b Iftikhar | 1 |
| J E R Gallian c Shoaib b Fahad | 67 |
| N Hussain c Iftikhar b Mubashir | 83 |
| A McGrath not out | 26 |

| J C Pooley b Mubashir | 0 |
|---|-----|
| R C Irani bow b Iftikhar | 12 |
| C White not out | 1 |
| Extras (b 4, lb 5) | 9 |
| Total (5 wks, 62 overs) | 169 |
| 1st J Piper, 1 D K Saibury, D W Headley and R D Stump to bat. | |
| FALL OF WICKETS: 1-8, 2-125, 3-128, 4-188, 5-190. | |
| BOWLING: Shoaib Akhtar 7.0-40-1; Mubashir Nazeer 15.5-40-2; Fahad Khan 16.0-67-1; Iftikhar 22.5-43-1; Waqar Khan 1.0-0-0. | |
| Umpires: Mohammed Iqbal and Azhar Aslam | |

PAKISTAN A TEAM (v England A at Multan, Nov 17 to 21): Aamir Hamid (capt), Shoaib Akhtar, Mubashir Nazeer, Shoaib Khan, Saeed Azad, Faez Naveed, Waqar Younis, Aamir Khan, Nadeem Khan, Shoaib Akhtar, Mohammed Zahid, Shoaib Khan, Salman Faisal, Kabir Khan, Mubashir Nazeer.



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BBC among the Cup's first-round casualties

Common sense tells you that the first round of the FA Cup is never going to be great television. Come January, and the giant-killing cliché of the third round, it will be a different matter — it always is — but on a cold, wet November Saturday, when less than 6,000 spectators turn up to watch Runcorn play Wigan Athletic and Slough Town take on Plymouth Argyle, was it really worth the Match of the Day cameras trundling out to join them?

For all but the most ardent enthusiasts, the sort of supporter who can list the minor leagues in descending order of importance, the answer has to be no. Niall Staine, the programme's editor, must have kept it secret from the controller of BBC1 that football's muddy basement would be arriving early this season, and with it the sort of programme that came drinking up time, will have had the nation's pubs echoing to: "Well, perhaps just one more." Sloane's A-team knew, though — there was no Des Lynam, no Alan Hansen and no Gary Lineker.



MATTHEW BOND
TV ACTION REPLAY

Lynam's anchorman role was taken by Tony Gubba, who looked short of match practice, particularly when it came to getting the best from his studio guests. Andy Melvin, the Hitchin Town manager, and Steve Conroy, one of the goalscorers, who in the finest Cup traditions briefly became BT's best-known engineer. His three minutes, however, were quickly up.

Clive Tyldesley opened the commentary duties from a gloomy Runcorn, with a game that, despite his best endeavours, showed exactly why turning muddy basements into good television is so difficult — too few cameras positioned on stands underscoring the prefix "ground", and microphones that pick up as many coughs as they do cheers.

Barry Davies faced similar problems at Slough, but responded with consummate professionalism. Within seconds, he had quoted Benjamin, recalled the Swifts ("they played here in 1874"), identified two former Plymouth players turning out for Slough, and pointed out that he was not the only one moving from Highbury to Slough in a week — so had the referee. The overall effect was that the game at least sounded like a proper football match, even if it did not always look like one.

Davies was almost alone at the BBC in taking the first round seriously. Another woe! Football Focus almost forgot to mention it at all, and when it finally did, did its Match of the Day colleagues no favours whatsoever. Steve Rider and Lineker scarcely mentioned the games due to feature later that night, focusing instead (and very briefly) on Walsall's win at Burnley and a report by Garry Richardson from Rushden and Diamonds' improbably splendid ground.

Newcastle Comets seek fresh start

THE changing face of sport on Tyneside will take a further impressive step next weekend when Newcastle Comets play their first Budweiser League basketball game in the sparkling new Newcastle Arena (Nicholas Harting writes). The Comets would like nothing more than for their move from Gateshead Leisure Centre to herald a change in fortunes. Propping up the league, the Comets badly need to improve on a record of four defeats in five games. The game against Doncaster Panthers on Saturday will be followed by another home fixture the next Saturday against Chester Jets to be shown live on Sky Television.

Silva succeeds again

ATHLETICS: German Silva, of Mexico, won his second consecutive New York City marathon yesterday, outlasting Britain's Paul Evans over the final mile to win a victory he dedicated to his late father. Silva won in 2hr 11min to become the first successful defender of the title since 1985. Evans was the runner-up, four seconds behind, with William Koech, of Kenya, third in 2hr 11min 18sec. A pack of ten men remained in contention until three miles from the finish. Silva pulled ahead with 1.2 miles remaining, but Evans stayed on his shoulder for another mile before falling off the pace. Silva won last year on his father's 70th birthday when his two-second triumph was the closest in New York marathon history. His father died four months ago.

Formula One season ends with emphatic victory over depleted field

Ecstatic Hill laps up last-race plaudits

FROM OLIVER HOLT IN ADELAIDE

DAMON HILL has got two new favourite phrases. He learnt them from a surfer while he was on holiday on the west coast of Australia last week, and he gave one of his first public airings here yesterday after he had hurtled away from his faltering pursuers in the final Formula One race of the season. "Too easy, mate," he told a questioner after the race. "It was too easy."

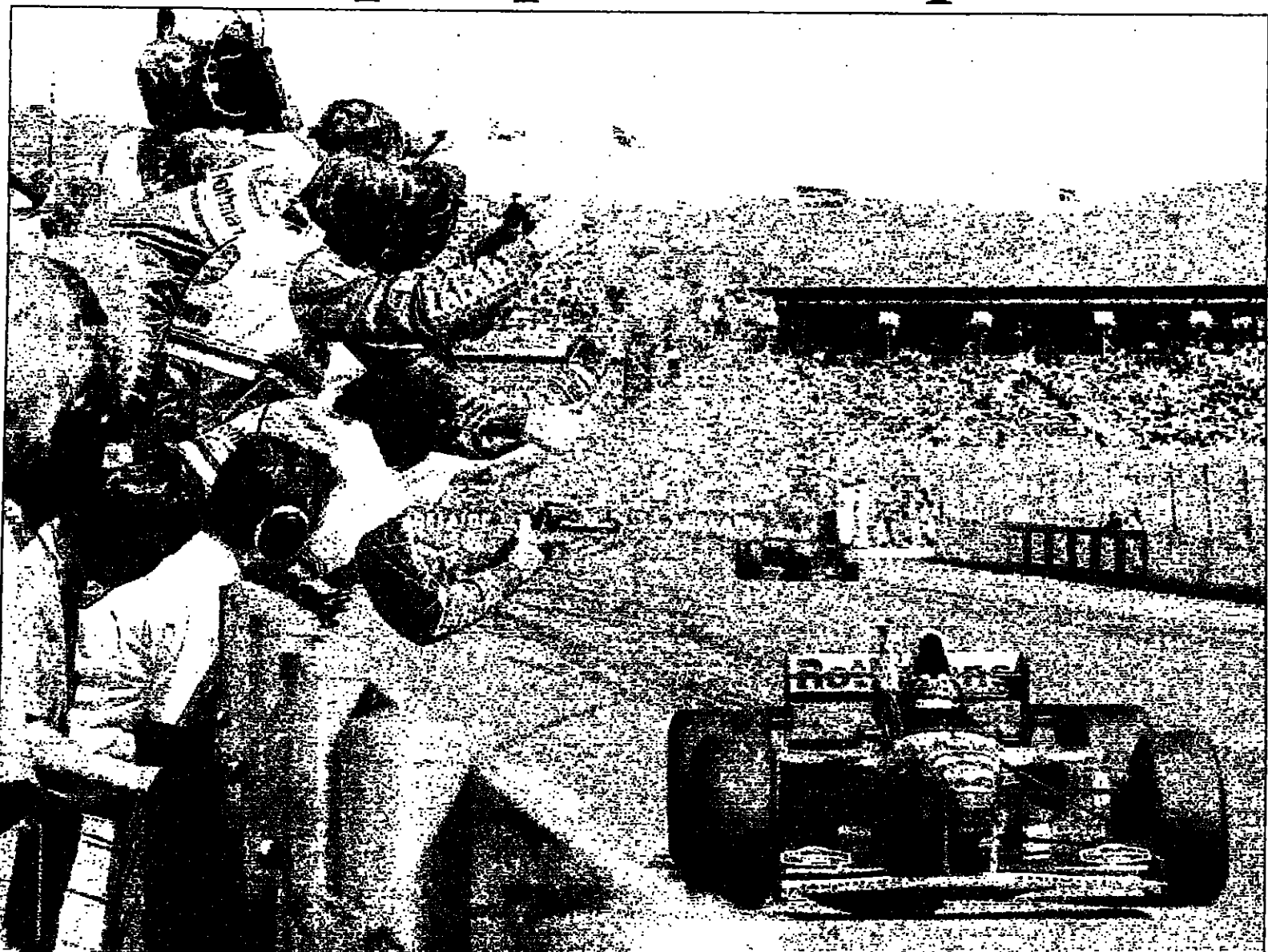
He chose to avoid "no dramas," the other antipodean phrase that has sneaked into his vocabulary, because it was singularly inappropriate. The Australian Grand Prix that he won by more than two laps from Olivier Panis was packed so full of bizarre incidents that it began to resemble an episode of *The Wacky Races*.

There was David Coulthard smashing into a concrete wall as he entered the pit-lane for his first refuelling stop; there was Jean Alesi appearing to try to run Michael Schumacher off the road and ending both their races. Finally, there was Panis, limping through the last three laps in his Ligier Mugen-Honda with a broken engine spewing oil and smoke to claim a highly unexpected second place.

Through it all came Hill, so far ahead that he could contemplate the satisfaction inherent in completing some unfinished business. There was no world drivers' championship to reward him for his crushing win, but on the track where his crash with Schumacher last year robbed him of the title, he at least secured the mantle of coming out on top this time and shattering the German's dream of beating Nigel Mansell's record of nine wins in one season.

More important, after the dismal run of three races without a finish which ended his championship hopes, Hill's victory, which left him 33 points adrift of Schumacher in the runner-up position, was a jarring answer to the critics who hounded him as the championship slipped away. It will also be of inestimable worth as a morale-booster during the winter as he and his Williams-Renault team prepare to tackle the new Schumacher-Ferrari combination next year.

"This doesn't quite erase the memory of the last three races," Hill said, "but it gives a long way towards it. It has been a great weekend for me and the team because we have



Hill receives the acclaim of his Williams-Renault team after his triumph in the Australian Grand Prix. Photograph: Steve Holland

both really been through the mangle recently. Now I can go home a happy man. I can sit on this one all through the winter and concentrate on winning the world championship next year.

"I wish it had been that easy a few more times this year. They seemed to be dropping like flies and I was just sitting there and hoping and praying that nothing happened to me."

The Englishman has established the happy knack of providing stirring performances when the sport most needs them. He put fresh energy into the Williams team last season by winning the Spanish Grand Prix a month after the death of his teammate, Ayrton Senna, and his win yesterday seemed to lift the spirits of a paddock still reeling from the accident that befell the McLaren-Mercedes driver, Mika Hakkinen, on Friday. The Finnish driver

will remain in intensive care for another 24 hours, doctors at the Royal Adelaide Hospital said yesterday, but they reported "further significant improvement" in his condition.

Hill was given a rousing reception and then joined in the applause for the popular Italian driver, Gianni Morbi-

deli, who took advantage of the legions of retirement to stun himself and his Footwork-Hart team by finishing third. "I cannot find the words for this result," he said.

Hill made a good start from pole position, and although he tried to squeeze Coulthard towards the wall, the Scot

produced a breathtaking manoeuvre to force his way past going into the first corner. With Schumacher stuck in fourth place, behind the Ferrari of Gerhard Berger, the Williams-Renaults quickly opened up a ten-second advantage over the German.

Coulthard held the lead until the end of the nineteenth lap, when he tried to make his first pit stop, but as he began to turn into the pit lane, his engine malfunctioned and negated the effect of his braking. He skidded into the pit wall and was forced into an embarrassing retirement in his last race for Williams before moving to McLaren next year.

Alesi took Schumacher out four laps later, turning into him as Schumacher overtook and damaging the world champion's rear wishbone in the process. They had a shouting match in the Ferrari garage before burying their

differences. It was an anti-climactic end for Benetton after their capture of the constructors' and drivers' championships. "He tried to pass me on the outside, but there was no way," Schumacher said. Hill was never in danger again. He became only the second driver, after Jackie Stewart at the Spanish Grand Prix of 1969, to win a grand prix by a margin of more than two laps. The celebrations began almost immediately.

Swiss start in style

SKIING: Michael von Gruenigen, right, of Switzerland, won the opening giant slalom of the men's World Cup season at Tignes yesterday. Von Gruenigen, second in the corresponding event last year, beat Lasse Kjus, by four hundredths of a second in 2min 21.38sec. Urs Kaelin, the Olympic giant slalom silver medal-winner, made it a good day for the Swiss by finishing third in 2:21.38.



Milkins upsets James

SNOOKER: Rob Milkins, 19, in his first season as a professional, caused the biggest upset of the Benson and Hedges championship in Edinburgh by beating Steve James to reach the quarter-finals yesterday (Phil Yates writes). James, who defeated Steve Davis en route to a semi-final appearance in the Skoda Grand Prix last month, had been among the favourites, but Milkins, from Gloucester, who is 462nd in the provisional world rankings, recovered from 2-1 down to win 5-3. Matthew Stevens, another promising teenager, beat Karl Broughton 5-2.

Haining retains title

ROWING: Peter Haining retained his Thames World Sculling Challenge title on Saturday despite suffering recently from a throat infection and a sprung rib (Mike Rosewell writes). The triple world lightweight sculling champion from Scotland lined up on the Surrey station at Putney with the former lightweight world champions, Niall O'Toole, of Ireland, and Frans Gobel, of Holland, next to him. In fast conditions, and despite a battle to the Mile post, Haining had the race won by halfway and went on to finish 23 seconds ahead of O'Toole, who came in second.

Davies repeats victory

GOLF: Laura Davies, right, the defending champion, scored a two-under-par 70 yesterday to win the Itoen Ladies tournament in Chonan, Japan, by two strokes. The British player and Mayumi Hirase, of Japan, were level from the 11th hole, but Hirase, this season's top earner on the Japan LPGA Tour, bogeyed the last two holes. Davies collected £72,000 for her third victory in Japan.



Cardiff increase lead

ICE HOCKEY: Cardiff Devils extended their lead at the top of the premier division to three points by defeating Fife Flyers 7-6, but there were only two and a half minutes of the game remaining when Randy Smith secured the victory by touching home Jason Stone's blistering long-range shot. Fife were indebted to Chris Palmer for his four goals. Sheffield Steelers moved into second place with an 8-2 victory over Slough Jets, while Durham Wasps slipped to third after losing by the same score away to Milton Keynes Kings.

Love conquers all in both competitions

FROM PATRICIA DAVIES IN SHENZHEN, CHINA

A YEAR makes no difference at all to Fred Couples and Davis Love III, the golfing match made in heaven. Another continent, another few hundred thousand dollars in the bank, another Heineken World Cup of Golf dominated from start to finish.

Yesterday, at the Mission Hills club here, on a course designed by Jack Nicklaus, the indomitable duo achieved something even the Golden Bear never managed — they won the team trophy for the fourth consecutive time, having led each year from the first day. Nicklaus won four times with Arnold Palmer. In 1963, 1964, 1966 and 1967.

Love and Couples shared a purse of \$400,000 (about £250,000) after finishing on 543.33 under par and are now a cumulative 121 under in the event — 14 strokes ahead of Australia, with Japan and Scotland third on 558. Love also won \$100,000 pocket money for being the leading

individual. He and Hisayuki Sasaki, of Japan, tied on 267.21 under par, and Love won a play-off at the fifth extra hole.

Sam Torrance, Europe's No 2, was third on his own, four behind, but he and his team-mate, Andrew Coltart, were robbed — almost certainly literally — at the last hole. Level with Robert Allenby and Brett Ogle, the Australians, they needed a par and a birdie to finish second on their own. Coltart made his par four and Torrance hit an eight-iron to four feet and holed the putt — for a bogey.

He had had to play three off the tee because his first drive, which had been pulled slightly, kicked left down a hill and was never found. "I'm sure someone picked it up," Torrance said. "It happened to Frank Nobilo in exactly the same place on Saturday. That's life. I'm not bitter, just a bit sad."

Final scores, page 39

No jellied eels to soothe the Brighton wobble

Nick Szczepanik, on the FA Cup trail, finds a heady mix of nostalgia and nervousness in the chilling outpost of Canvey Island

Canvey Island away — not exactly the draw a league club dreams of in the first round of the FA Cup but that was what long-suffering Brighton supporters were faced with yesterday. The sense of a trip into the unknown brought a 1,000-strong exodus from the south coast, but for those of us arriving at Benfleet railway station, information was non-existent, although a bus driver promised to get us to within ten minutes' walk of the ground.

As we zig-zagged across Canvey, other buses loaded with Brighton supporters, apparently laid on for those parking and riding, kept passing us in the opposite direction. Alarming and puzzling — but eventually we were deposited at a lonely bus stop and pointed in the general direction of Park Lane.

Canvey Island offers the casual visitor few delights, and Park Lane is not one of them. Work had been in progress all week to install extra seats and terracing — which Brighton supporters hoped would not be needed for

a subsequent round — to make the most of an all-ticket crowd of 4,500, ten times the normal attendance.

I bought my ticket in mid-week at the Goldstone Ground, Brighton, and was faced with a choice of £9 to stand and £12 to sit; concessionary prices were available, which is not always the case for away supporters. Finding that the seats were not under cover, I chose to stand in an exposed location on a November weekend the protection from the elements offered by others in the huddled standing masses is preferable to open-air seating. And on terracing you can crane your neck, change positions, go somewhere else if you do not care for your neighbours. Ah, the nostalgia!

The suspicion that Canvey Island would try to extract the maximum financial advantage from the game was not borne out by the catering. The main disappointment for those hungry for local colour as well as nutrition was the absence of jellied eels from the menu. The standard football

ground fare of burgers and hot dogs was on offer at standard prices, and FA Cup tradition was upheld in that the queue remained Wembley-sized throughout the game.

The area for visiting supporters behind one goal brought back memories of pre-

Taylor Report terraces, although these "terraces" were temporary platforms, and only three deep. Behind us (and, unusually, slightly above us, Park Lane being below sea level) was the Thames estuary; in front of us a highly-suspect pitch.

The game itself kicked off 15 minutes late, understandably in view of the unfamiliarity of both sets of supporters with the location of the ground. The Tannoy took this opportunity to prove itself the equal in indecipherability of any to be found higher up the divisions. Maybe it was the heavy metal music being forced through it: at any rate, it made the universal observation of two minutes' silence before kick-off even more welcome.

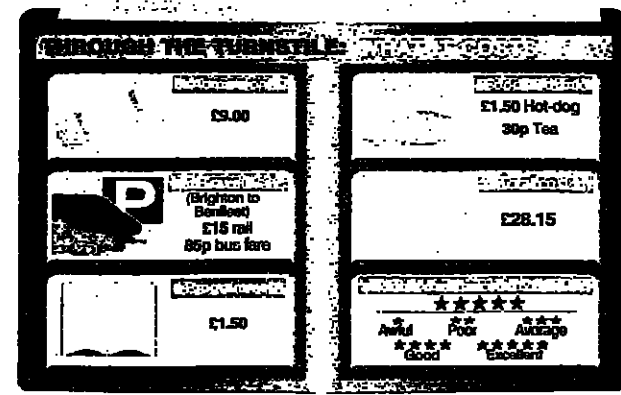
While the area for away supporters was comfortably full, the home end looked packed out, with people perched precariously on roofs. Outside the ground, other vantage points were also well populated.

The intimidatory atmosphere that had been threatened failed to materialise, but the close proximity of supporters to the pitch did mean that the Canvey No 7 was able to lean on the perimeter fence and enjoy a joke with spectators while waiting to take a corner.

ton went ahead, although the cheers were mainly of relief. Perhaps it was more likely to be a Suresbury-style romp than a Bristol Rovers-style debacle. Hence the Canvey equaliser was a sobering moment and could not be blamed on the bumpy surface that was our excuse for every error. The bumps may have been responsible for the ball spending 90 per cent of the time up in the air — or maybe Brighton were bringing Canvey down to their level. We took it out on the linesman until Brighton scored again.

The second Canvey equaliser made for a frantic final ten minutes during which many nails were bitten to the elbow, but in the end the final whistle brought celebrations for the non-leaguers at their draw and, for Brighton supporters, a communal and silent prayer of thanks.

Match report and photograph Page 28



Fry's strategy shows there is no substitute for innovation



Fry: combative

THE first half was pretty dull. "Never mind," I said, in my humorous way. "Barry will bring on all three substitutes now. All forwards. 'Ho, ho, ho,' my colleagues replied.

And so Barry Fry began the second half by pulling off three Birmingham City players, and bringing on three substitutes. All forwards. You are not supposed to do that, Barry. Like opening the bowling with two spinners, it is just not done. But that is how Birmingham went to Reading and beat them 1-0.

No point in playing four forwards and playing them out of position, is there? So Birmingham played the second half with a frank 4-2-4 system. Remember that? Two wingers and two centre forwards. Ward and Tait going frantic trying to do

the job of four men in midfield. Within five minutes, one of the substitutes, Charley, might have had two goals. One shot went wide, one header was saved by Woods. Remember him? The former England goalkeeper is now on loan at Reading. He looked all right on Saturday: that save needed fast hands and a perfect position.

With this escape, Reading were able to absorb the shock of the triple-substitution, and the reverse side of the gamble became clear. An injury would have left Birmingham with ten men: every time one of their players went down it looked like a defeat for Fry's positive thinking.

And playing four up front does leave you a little bit stretched at the back. Reading came back into it. They play better football than their position implies: sharp, astute little

Simon Barnes discovers a striking truth amid the Birmingham manager's familiar bluster

passes, a lot of intelligent running. But Birmingham cling to their luck, knowing that every ball above shoulder-height belonged to Daish, a thundering throwback of a centre half with his head theatrically shrouded in bandages from a recent head-wound.

And so the goal came: Gilkes dived on the ball a fraction too long in his own penalty area, was robbed by Finnan and Charley drove in the winner. Birmingham reverted to 4-4-2 and closed out the game.

Fry was in combative mood afterwards. "You should praise me for making all them substitutions. Instead of moaning like you lot

on in an emergency, or maybe briefly at the end. A professional afterthought. For Fry, the substitutes are a fundamental part of his tactical approach. A before-thought.

Charley is a case in point. A professional substitute, nothing less. He has scored six goals this season, five of them when coming off the bench. This was his fourth in three matches, all from a part-time position. "Play him for 90 minutes and he's useless," Fry said, perhaps not fully seriously.

The triple-substitution should not be seen as a Fry gimmick. Perhaps it will become a relevant part of modern football. After all, for a defender with 45 minutes' football in his legs, it must be horrible to have three fresh and hungry forwards charging at you.

And there are three points on offer

for a win. Three away draws are all very well, but one defeat and a pair of wins is twice as good. "I gamble a lot," Fry said. "Nine out of ten times I win. With substitutions, that is: last time I backed a winner at the bookies it was 1932..."

You can take or leave the cheeky chappie stuff. But Fry is an innovative tactical thinker, and that is a serious business. How serious? Well, Birmingham are third in the Endleigh Insurance League first division, and they will be fun to watch for a good few months yet.

READING (3-5-2): C Woods — P Hoggard, A Bernal, K McPherson — K Brown, M Gooding, P Parkinson, J Lambert, M Gilkes — L Mogan, S Lowe (sub: S Swales, 38m).

BIRMINGHAM CITY (4-3-1-2): (Bennett — G Peck, A Edwards, L Daish, M Johnson — P Tait, M Ward, S Cussey — J Hunt — S Clarke, S Russell, A Hall — M (4-4-2) (Bennett — G Peck, A Edwards, L Daish, M Johnson — M Ward, P Tait — S Finnan, K Charley, S Clarke, R Ocho.

Referee: N Barry

New blow to Taylor's prospects of survival

Wolverhampton W 0
Charlton Athletic 0

BY DENNIS SHAW

TWO years after Graham Taylor's controversial spell as England team manager ended in disarray, his job as manager of Wolverhampton Wanderers is looking almost equally fragile. Taylor admitted yesterday, after the latest in a line of inadequate Endleigh Insurance League first division performances, that he had considered "walking away" from his job at Molineux.

Taylor spoke frankly about the difficulties of his present position as hundreds of disenchanted supporters remained for nearly an hour after the match calling for his removal. Chants of "Taylor out" and "Taylor must go" were punctuated during the game by a slow handclap and, with typical Black Country black humour, there was also a shout of

Juninho lit up a nagging match against Sampdoria to mark the official opening of Middlesbrough's Riverside Stadium yesterday. Juninho delighted the 9,972 crowd with some neat touches but he could not inspire the goal that would have broken the deadlock in a 0-0 draw.

"Taylor for England!" It cannot have helped Taylor's confidence in his immediate future that his chairman, Jonathan Hayward wrote in the match programme: "Have I got the guts to make hard decisions? Have I got the vision to make the right decisions?"

The troubled manager admitted that he had asked his chairman about the article and Taylor explained: "He is an honest man expressing his feelings. If the Hayward family [owner Sir Jack and chairman Jonathan] want me to go they will tell me to my face. I came here at their invitation and it would be wrong of me to just leave. But when people say certain things to you from just a few yards away, then I have considered walking away from the aggravation."

"People have high expectations and they feel that they can say what they like to me. I can't change that, only by getting the right results. The players have to have the bottle

to continue the good things they do in training in the matches."

The chairman emerged from talks with his fellow directors to say: "It was not a board meeting and I wish to make no comment about the manager."

That all is not well at the home of potential giants of the English game was evident by the total lack of direction in the team performance. The fact that Wolverhampton were unable to break down ten-man opposition from the 37th minute compounded supporters' criticism.

Charlton's numbers were reduced by a red card for Leaburn. As players massed in the home penalty area for a free kick, after a crude challenge by De Wolf on Leaburn, the Wolverhampton centre back suddenly dropped in a heap. The referee did not see the incident but the crowd behind the goal chanted "No 10, No 10" as the official consulted his linesman. Television pictures revealed that Leaburn apparently struck his opponent, who was then booked for the original foul.

As a match, it was a virtual non-event, though Charlton played some neat passing football, in contrast to the home side who constantly gave the ball away.

Wolverhampton were unfortunate midway through the first half when Goodman scored what looked a legitimate goal, which was disallowed for a highly questionable offside decision.

Against that, Jones, in goal, saved them on two occasions, notably when he blocked Grant's effort from close range. In the dying, despairing seconds, Goodman's header, which could have soothed the disgruntled home supporters, rebounded off the bar.

Taylor added to his unpopularity by again leaving out Bull, though he called him on after an hour. The centre forward's very presence led to a couple of dangerous moments but as supporters chanted afterwards, their team seem to be going nowhere.

WOLVERHAMPTON WANDERERS (4-5-1): P Jones — M Parlane (sub: S Bull, 60m), E Young, J De Wolf, A Thompson — A Daish, M Adams, N Embriel, C Wingard, M D Goodman, M Williams (sub: J Cousins, 45m).

CHARLTON ATHLETIC (4-4-2): M Anderson — J Humphrey, R Butler, C Chapple, P Surgen — S Newton (sub: G Nelson, 70m), K Jones, L Boyer, J Robinson — K Grant, C Leaburn.

Referee: C Wiles



Minton, the Brighton midfielder, jumps highest during an aerial duel with Bribnell, of Canvey Island, yesterday. Photograph: Marc Aspland

Islanders prosper from law of the jungle

Canvey Island 2
Brighton 2

BY RUSSELL KEMPSON

PARK Lane, central London, oozes wealth and privilege: a playground of the pampered. Park Lane, Canvey Island, offers a more industrial outlook on life from the heart of the Essex flatlands. Island pleasures range from a corking view of the oil refineries when driving in on the A130, or a week's break at one of the many caravan parks that dot the landscape.

Kings Holiday Park, a 77-acre leisure complex that is owned and run by Jack and Jeff King, is apparently worth a visit, too. "Step out of your world into ours," the publicity reads. Canvey is indeed another world, yet one that the Islanders are fiercely proud of.

Yesterday, at the less illustrious Park Lane, was an occasion like none before. Canvey, from the higher reaches of the Icis League second division, took on Brighton, of the Endleigh Insurance League second division, in the first round of the FA Cup. It was Canvey's maiden appearance against

league opposition, and the locals turned out in raucous force.

Not that the ground — "Welcome to the Jungle!" the sign above the door of the dressing-rooms proclaims — could quite cope with the accommodation required, although £11,000 was spent on temporary stands. It was mostly a case of grab the nearest vantage point, including the roofs of the overlooking houses. It was all too much for the public address

announcer. "You are doing that at your own risk," he pleaded to all and sundry. "You are not covered by our insurance." Nobody listened, nobody clambered down.

The island also possesses the Icic League's equivalent of Barry Fry, the roly-poly Birmingham City manager. Jeff King, the Canvey manager, is twice Fry's size, equally voluble, and wheels and deals a bit, too, in the family business that dominates much of the area. "This is just

brilliant," he said after the draw that necessitates a replay on November 21. "It's great for the club, the place, everyone."

Asked what he thought of Brighton, who led twice through goals from McDougald, in the fifteenth and 39th minutes, he said: "The beach is all right." That adequately summed up Brighton's unconvincing performance.

Yet Canvey should not really have lived to fight another day, after losing 1-0 to King's

Lynn in the third qualifying round. It was only King's Lynn's fielding of an ineligible player that allowed Canvey's reinstatement, and King to revel in his sudden elevation into the national consciousness.

Canvey's goalscorers — Porter in the 32nd minute, Brett in the eightieth — will have risen to equal overnight prominence, their powerful headers blunting Brighton's best endeavours. "It's a dream come true," Brett, 27, a press machine minder, said. "We probably should have won in the end." Porter, 28, a physical education teacher, said.

Liam Brady, the Brighton manager, was as upbeat as ever and relieved to have a second chance. "I reckon we can still do it," he said, making a good job of masking any annoyance that he might have felt. It had been a torrid afternoon and he was just glad to have survived his visit to the Jungle.

CANVEY ISLAND (4-4-2): J Keeley — W Jockelyn, K Lee, S Porter, E Martin (sub: C Bristow, 30m) — A Brett, G Bribnell, A Pacey, G Perrydisher — A Jones, A Mackenzie (sub: A Harding, 67).

BRIGHTON (4-4-2): N Rust — P Smith, P McCarthy, R Cornes, S Maylor, D Mundell (sub: S Munro, 70), J Horton, G Franks, D Wilkins — J Byrne, J McDougald.

Referee: M Bailey

Turnstile view, page 27

club, but it does give us a good chance of going further."

Telford, who reached the fifth round in 1985 before losing at Everton, have been drawn at home to Notts County, who beat York City at Bootham Crescent yesterday.

Blyth Spartans' reward for beating Bury is a trip to Stockport County, who they knocked out 24 years ago.

There is another possibility of an all non-league tie with Enfield or Newport (IOW) due to entertain Woking, if they beat Barnet at the second attempt. Hitchin Town, who beat Bristol Rovers 2-1 on

Saturday, could face Wycombe Wanderers, who beat them 5-0 last year, if the latter beat Gillingham tonight.

Northern section: Altrincham or Crewe Alexandra v Mansfield Town, Barrow v Rotherham or Macclesfield, Blackpool v Colwyn Bay, Bradford City v Preston North End, Hull City or Shrewsbury v Chesterfield, Rochdale v Darlington, Southport United v Shrewsbury Town, Stockport County v Blyth Spartans, Torquay United v Notts County.

Southern section: Bournemouth or Brierley City v Brentford or Farnborough, Gillingham v Grays Rovers, Grimsby Town, Huddersfield Town, Luton, Fulham v Canvey Island or Brighton and Hove Albion, Harrogate United v Kidderminster Harriers, or Sutton United v Plymouth Argyle, Newport v Enfield v Barnet or Woking, Oxford United v Northampton Town, Peterborough United v Bognor Regis, Town or Ayr United, Swindon Town v Cardiff City, Torquay United v Walsall, Wycombe Wanderers or Gillingham v Hagen Town.

FA Cup to be played on December 2 and 3

Albion stymied by Stimac

Derby County 3
West Bromwich Albion 0

BY IAN RODGERS

TO LABEL this season disappointing would be a huge understatement for Derby County supporters. They had only four victories until Saturday, and seven days earlier they were humiliated 5-1 away to Tranmere Rovers. Drastic alterations were required by Jim Smith, the Derby manager. Come the hour...

Igor Stimac, the Croat defender, arrived at the Baseball Ground two weeks ago, a move that even seemed to surprise his new manager. "We could not believe he would come and play for Derby County," Smith said. His impact has been immediate.

Stimac was involved in almost everything County tried against West Bromwich Albion in this Endleigh Insurance League first division match. Accurate, long passes offered

numerous opportunities for Willem and Sturridge to examine the Albion defence, and Stimac became the decoy for the Derby opener when his presence in the West Brom area left Gabbiadini freedom to head home.

Powell was also found comfortably by the Croat's pass in the move that led to a penalty for Derby 11 minutes later, converted by Sturridge. "A great move," Smith said. "We

Full results and league tables Page 30

knew he was a player who would excite the fans, although he probably played better last week. He already understands what you say, he has just got to learn which side of the road to drive on."

However, it would be grossly unfair to claim that Stimac was the only difference. Credit must also be given to Smith for Derby's new formation,

which allowed the energetic Willem to roam free behind the front two. "It is something I have always wanted to do," Smith said.

The three-goal margin — Sturridge's poise and skill set up the third Derby goal for Gabbiadini — appears emphatic, but West Brom were not outclassed. But for the inspired work of Russell Hoult, the Derby goalkeeper, Albion would have had at least two goals before the break. Donovan and Taylor were denied by Hoult's exceptional agility and handling.

With the bulk of the first division separated by only 11 points, progress should be made by Derby. "With this league being so tight, it is within us to move up sharply," Smith said.

DERBY COUNTY (3-4-1-2): R Hoult — G Rowell, I Stimac, D Tores — C Boden, D Powell, R van der Laan, L Cussey — D Williams — D Sturridge, M Gabbiadini (sub: S Flynn, 86m).

WEST BROMWICH ALBION (4-4-2): S Naylor — D Burgess (sub: J Ashopt, 56), P Mounie, P Raven, P Fogg — A Robinson, S Cunningham (sub: S Caldwell, 70), D Gilbert, J Hamilton — A Hunt, R Taylor.

Referee: R Poulton

Collymore prepared to give up football

STAN COLLYMORE, 24, revealed yesterday he is prepared to turn his back on football. "If I felt now that I'd be stuck at Liverpool for the next two years and just be average, I would give up football tomorrow without a doubt," he said.

Collymore, signed in the summer for £8.5 million from Nottingham Forest, was critical in an interview in a Sunday newspaper of Roy Evans, the Liverpool manager, for not discussing, during contract talks, the role he expected the player to fill.

"I don't know of any other industry that would lay out £8.5 million on anything and then not have some plan from day one on how they're going to use it," he said.

Bobby Gould's plans for Wales' final European championship qualifying match in Albania on Wednesday have been disrupted by a spate of injuries. Gould had wanted to stick with the side

beaten 2-1 by Germany in Cardiff last month for the match in Tirana's Qemal Stafa stadium. But three of that team — Nathan Blake, Kit Symons and Gary Speed — have had to pull out and with four more squad members withdrawing, a depleted Welsh party trained at West Ham's Chadwell Heath complex yesterday.

The other casualties of the Endleigh Insurance League were Chris Coleman, of Crystal Palace, who has a poisoned toe, and Geraint Williams, the Ipswich midfielder player who has a strained Achilles tendon. Paul Mardon, of West Bromwich Albion, added to Gould's difficulties by sustaining an injury in training.

Gould has called up the uncapped pair of Robbie Savage, of Crewe Alexandra, and John Robinson, of Charlton Athletic, from the stand-by squad and will name another central defender today.

Millwall ride crest of wave

Millwall 2
Ipswich Town 1

BY ALYSON RUDD

ANYBODY serious about ensuring that football remains entertaining would talk of improving skill and fitness — not of higher and wider goalposts. So any quick-fix merchants at the New Den on Saturday may have made a note to recommend that scoring inside the opening two minutes should be outlawed.

Millwall scored after just 70 seconds. Malkin netting his own rebounding shot off the upright, and that was that. Millwall, the Endleigh Insurance League first division leaders, played out the remaining 88 minutes and 50 seconds with trying nonchalance. Even more trying was that Ipswich Town had not the courage to challenge the fates.

The visitors revealed glimpses of cunning but not even an elegantly-crafted equaliser, which saw Milton

stretch to volley Taricco's long cross from the left into the path of Mason, could dispel the mood of inevitability.

Millwall rode their luck without reins. They were by turns sloppy in midfield and forgetful in defence. Ipswich could have embarrassed them but instead chose to act like Neil in the Young Ones: "Hey, you're only giving the ball away to make me feel better — it's not going to work."

And work it did not: in the 53rd minute, Winter, the 30-year-old defender, ensured that Ipswich did not feel any better by claiming the winner.

Millwall have not slipped lower than third in the division this season and have to be taken seriously as promotion candidates. Their performance hardly left a tinge of anticipation but one suspects that Millwall, better than most in the division, know that they still have to raise their game to make a go of it.

Their humbling of Premier-ship opponents in cup competition in recent seasons, including Everton in the Coca-Cola Cup last month, has earned praise. If they want to take it easy occasionally in their promotion campaign, one has to assume they know what they are doing.

MILLWALL (4-3-3): K Koller — R Newman, A Miller, S Stevens, G Tostee — G Bevan, A Ruse, J van Blerk — K Dean (sub: U Fuchs, 58m), S Taylor (sub: D Saorin, 59), C Bannister.

IPSWICH TOWN (4-4-2): G Poyser — M Stockwell, J Wain, A Mowbray, M Taricco — S Hetherington, G Williams, P Hession — A Mulvey (sub: N Gregory, 78), J Marshall.

Referee: G Syme

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Millwall scored after just 70 seconds. Malkin netting his own rebounding shot off the upright, and that was that. Millwall, the Endleigh Insurance League first division leaders, played out the remaining 88 minutes and 50 seconds with trying nonchalance. Even more trying was that Ipswich Town had not the courage to challenge the fates.

The visitors revealed glimpses of cunning but not even an elegantly-crafted equaliser, which saw Milton

stretch to volley Taricco's long cross from the left into the path of Mason, could dispel the mood of inevitability.

Millwall rode their luck without reins. They were by turns sloppy in midfield and forgetful in defence. Ipswich could have embarrassed them but instead chose to act like Neil in the Young Ones: "Hey, you're only giving the ball away to make me feel better — it's not going to work."

Fiery Gas

PAUL GABBIADINI, 24, claimed several of his goals in the morning. He was trained with the first team and was expected to play in the match with West Brom on Saturday. He was a key player in the team and his goals were crucial to the team's success.

Gabbiadini was a key player in the team and his goals were crucial to the team's success. He was a key player in the team and his goals were crucial to the team's success.

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Market town minnows ignore local hostility and gulf in status to progress

Hitchin's triumph not to Herts' content



Rob Hughes on a 2-1 victory over Bristol Rovers that was in keeping with FA Cup traditions

Lift an original stone of FA Cup history, and the essence of knockout football rises superbly. In the North Herts market town of Hitchin on Saturday, the traders for once had to give second best to the footballers. When this great competition began 124 years ago, Hitchin Town were among the 15 original subscribers to the purchase of the trophy; they were knocked out in the second round by Royal Engineers, a team wearing dark blue knickerbockers. Bristol Rovers were expected to emphasise the gulf between professional and part-time players, but as 3,101, the capacity of the town's wimsey, Hitchin, of the Ics League, were the better team, the victors on merit. It is only the second time in that century and a quarter that they have erased a league team from the competition that they helped to start.

It was fitting that Graham Kelly, the chief executive of the Football Association, sat in the homely wooden stand at Top Field. Terry Venables is the England coach partly because he came unstuck attempting to be both owner and manager of a club. Andy Melvin owns and manages Hitchin Town; he has to do so, for the club was in a parlous state three years ago, and he put his money in on condition that he controls the rebuilding.

He has a fine, emerald green, fast-draining pitch, surrounded mainly by proud trees and recast terracing, and the profits from a Cup run are essential to the dream of providing cover for some of those standing supporters. However, as is the wont of councillors, Hitchin operate in a hostile local environment, their every plan for expansion countered by residents who really would rather not disturb the market town peace for the clamour of football spectators.

They, then, were oblivious to the outpouring of emotions that greeted two goals from the Canaries, the first headed after 47 seconds by Steve

Conroy, a British Telecom engineer, the second nimbly converted by Lee Burns, a very fast postman, in the ninth minute.

After that came a bombardment, prolonged but guileless, from the professionals. So often and so high did they hoist the ball into the Hitchin goalmouth, perhaps hoping that the floodlights might be dazzled. Conroy, Sylvester, the Hitchin goalkeeper, they literally played into the hands of Sylvester, the Cat. He plucked four memorable saves out of the air. He is lean and brave, and was agile enough to stretch above his head or down to his ankles as Sterling, Stewart, Tillson and then Sterling again demanded of him.

"Fantastic!" Melvin said. "fantastic!" He used, this accountant, the same word several times in his post-match eulogy, but in the run-up to the match he had lost two vital elements to the side.

Adam Parker, normally a striking partner for the policeman, Gary Williams, was detained in youth custody after being sentenced to six months for counterfeiting. In addition, Tim Allpress, the centre half described as the backbone of the new Hitchin, had flown only days earlier to Hong Kong, where he was made an offer he could not refuse to play for the champion team, Eastern AC. In his place, Mark Burke, the club captain, formerly with Queens Park Rangers, played through the pain of a recent groin injury.

But FA Cup lore cannot be about everyday groin strains. It is about goals, and glory. How Conroy, balding and willing to take the strain of the new English one-man forward role, celebrated his moment. He had sneaked between the Rovers centre backs, outwitted the £375,000 Tillson, and got his forehead deftly to the flight of a free kick from Ian Scott. Simple, but not ultimately as impressive as the second goal. Burns has the physical weight of a sparrow, but he possesses a turbo-charge of acceleration



Conroy is engulfed by jubilant Hitchin Town team-mates and supporters after his first-minute goal. Photograph: Marc Aspland

and appreciable balance. So, when Scott once more provided a through-ball, when Gurney driving the ball in from the edge of the penalty box in the 22nd minute after a loosely cleared corner, the signal was raised for all-out Hitchin defence. The big policeman, Williams, became invaluable in aerial clearances, the slight

When Rovers pulled back a goal with, effectively, their first serious reprisal. Lee Archer driving the ball in from the edge of the penalty box in the 22nd minute after a loosely cleared corner, the signal was raised for all-out Hitchin defence. The big policeman, Williams, became invaluable in aerial clearances, the slight

Burns became the one release from interminable pressure. The siege and the match was over, the quality had not been any contradiction to the worries that English football is losing technical quality. And yet, we will remember it just as I will never forget travelling on from Hitchin to the Café Royal, to share with 240

Middlesex Wanderers the nineteenth celebration of their unique amateur philosophy. There, among guests from all around the world where the Wanderers have played, in 39 countries, was the wonderful comradeship, akin to a regimental reunion, that binds men who pursue this game for absolutely no financial gain.

Twice in one Saturday, the true spirit of football gave itself to this observer: I count myself very privileged. HITCHIN TOWN (4-2-2) 1 G Sylvester - C McLennan, J. Bone, M. Burke, G. Gurney, I. Scott, D. Cooper, K. Gildard - J. Burns, G. Williams - S. Conroy. BRISTOL ROVERS (4-4-2) A. Collett - D. Pritchard, A. Tillson, J. McLean, A. Gurney - M. Hayfield (sub: J. Charnock, 51 min), I. Wright, J. Skinner, W. Sealing - M. Swain, I. Archer. Referee: J. Hurreley

Runcorn earn due reward

Runcorn 1
Wigan Athletic 1

By WALTER GAMMIE

RUNCORN drew a crowd of 2,844, the Match of the Day cameras and an FA Cup first-round tie that blossomed into a fine contest at Canal Street on Saturday. As the Vauxhall Conference club tries to clear £100,000 debts, incurred in replacing its main stand, on home crowds that this season average 548, the combined financial effect brought clear delight to its officials. That John Carroll fielded questions in a mood more akin to a manager whose side had felled rather than merely wounded an Endsleigh Insurance League third division giant was down to the thrilling transformation he had helped Runcorn to produce after a sterile first half.

Wigan, not so far removed from their Northern Premier League roots that they underestimated the force of a full throttle non-league challenge, and with players eager to

impress a new manager, John Deehan, had withstood Runcorn's early assault and gradually taken control.

Neater and more inventive, they fashioned a fine goal in the 37th minute through two of the celebrated amigos given their first taste of FA Cup action. Diaz played the ball off Black to get behind the defence and crossed to Martinez, who turned the ball under Morris, the Runcorn goalkeeper.

At half-time the rain started to stream down, halving the colony of ticketless or impecunious that viewed proceedings from the flyover outside the ground, and obliterating the view of the puffing power station on the far bank of the Mersey even before dark fell. The more treacherous conditions underfoot brought Wigan new problems, swiftly intensified by Runcorn's change of tack.

"We'd played into their hands in the first half," Carroll said. "We used the long ball too much. I wanted us to push the ball wide, play to feet and do things the way we normally do." Ten minutes into the second half, Carroll further

helped the cause by sending on Colin Taylor.

Taylor, by his own admission, carries more bulk than might be expected of a 23-year-old who harbours ambitions of a return to the professional game that cast him aside after a promising start at Wolverhampton Wanderers. Yet his strength and ball control were immediately apparent when he reached the byline and crossed for Ruffier to put in a header that was well blocked by Farnworth, but ran off the post for Bignall to dart in and put away the equaliser.

If Runcorn's finishing touches had been sharper, they might even have gone ahead. Instead, for all the persistent pressure they exerted, and the exciting counter-attacks of Wigan's rapid breaks, the tie remained unresolved. "We finished the stronger," Carroll said. "We're looking forward to the replay."

RUNCORN (4-4-2) M. Morris - C. Ruffier, P. Ellis, P. Byrne, J. Bates - L. Clowes (sub: C. Taylor, 50 min), I. Sealey, N. Donohue, M. Smith - M. Farnworth, M. Bignall, WIGAN ATHLETIC (4-4-2) S. Farnworth - M. Carragher, J. Robinson, C. Gerrard, J. Pender - I. Diaz, R. Martinez, C. Lightfoot, J. Butler - M. Leonard, A. Black (sub: A. Lyons, 68). Referee: S. Davies

Cardiff tie up the boot boys

Rushden and Diamonds 1
Cardiff City 3

By SIMON WILDE

RELAX, enjoy yourself and pass the ball around. Wise counsel from any football manager to his team and guaranteed to work like a dream. Roger Ashby, the Rushden and Diamonds manager, did not forget to impart such advice to his players on Saturday, when they met Cardiff City in the first round of the FA Cup. Unfortunately, he did not do it until the half-time interval and by then it was too late.

The Beazer Homes League team was 2-0 down and had so lacked creativity, sophistication and presence in the first half that many must have questioned anew Max Griggs's decision to sink his Dr Martens millions into such footsore pedestrianism.

Cardiff, having started hesitantly, as befitted their lowly position in the third division of the Endsleigh Insurance League, had taken advantage of their hosts' generosity

and excellent Nene Park pitch to poach a brace of goals midway through the half. Both, the first from Dale, the second from Jarman, the assured teenager, were sharply executed, but neither scorer need have hurried: the defence was nowhere.

The second half was a different matter. Rushden and Diamonds promptly won a corner, Wooding fired in a telling cross and Hannigan rose to thread a header expertly past flailing defenders and goalkeeper. For the next quarter of an hour, Cardiff and the crowd knew they had the sort of cup-tie on their hands that they had been anticipating.

Then, perhaps against the run of play, Cardiff scored the goal that all but settled the match and stilled the animated activity in Griggs's centrally-placed executive box. It was a well-constructed affair that ended in a perfect first-time cross from Gardner and a diving header into the corner of the net by Dale.

Rushden and Diamonds fought on but any hopes they harboured of scrambling back into the match

disappeared five minutes from the end when Watkins, a substitute, missed a sitter. He found himself with only the goalkeeper to beat and would have had time to accomplish the manoeuvre wearing a pair of Griggs's famous boots. On the stroke of full time the unfortunate Watkins hit the post with a better, if marginally inaccurate, piece of finishing.

Both teams may return from this tie to their respective league campaigns in better heart. Cardiff have some relegation avoidance to see to it, and judging by the way Adams and Dale performed, might manage it - and Rushden and Diamonds have entry to the Vauxhall Conference on the horizon. This was their first appearance in such an advanced stage of the FA Cup. Perhaps next time they will enjoy the occasion from the outset.

RUSHDEN AND DIAMONDS (4-4-2) G. Bennett - T. Wooding, A. Peaks (sub: S. Spooner, 70 min), A. J. Hannigan, M. Ashby - A. Norris, G. Butlerworth, N. Smith, D. Collins - M. Nutall (sub: D. Watkins, 72), H. Wain. CARDIFF CITY (4-4-2) D. Williams - D. Seale, L. Jarman, S. Young, D. Brazil (sub: C. Osbourne, 63) - N. Fogg, J. Gardner, J. Robinson, H. Fleming - C. Dale, D. Adams (sub: A. Evans, 71). Referee: S. Dunn

Fiery Gascoigne fortunate not to see red

PAUL GASCOIGNE had a cluttered schedule on Saturday. In the morning, he trained with the England squad who are preparing for the match with Switzerland, before catching a shuttle to Glasgow and lasting 63 minutes of Rangers's 1-1 draw with Aberdeen. The midfield player should also, however, have been obliged to find space in that crowded diary for a future.

He ought to have been sent off. A disciplinary referee might have produced a red card merely for the moment early in the game when he rammed his head into John Ingalls's chest and John Rowbotham should certainly have been fishing in his pocket for a yellow one.

Other offences followed before the interval as Gascoigne again snapped an elbow into the face of any opponent who challenged him zealously. As the five stitches in Paul Bernard's chin proved, there can be real damage in the England player's gestures.

Gascoigne was immoderate in every respect on Saturday, even firing a volley of abuse at Rowbotham after the award of a free kick for lashing out at another Aberdeen player. The official should have been hearing only expressions of gratitude.

It was his leniency, that allowed Gascoigne to remain on the field. Intentions and degrees of culpability can be hard to gauge from the distant stands, but as television demonstrated, the referee was well placed to take in each incident.

Rowbotham has, in fact, been regarded as one of the most promising referees in the country and his failure to intervene was disturbing to see. It applied not only to Gascoigne, for late in the game Billy Dodds, of Aberdeen, sparked an exchange that ended with the Rangers substitute, John Brown, striking him on the head. Once again, no action was taken.

As anyone who has ever

KEVIN MCCARRA



Scottish commentary

bumped another car while parking will know, there are times when the brain scises up in the presence of unwelcome news. A referee, however, is supposed to be trained to look long and hard at damaged bodywork and allocate responsibility for the collision.

Gascoigne did not collect even a booking on Saturday but may still be punished. Twice this season, the referee's supervisor at a match has brought to the attention of the Scottish Football Association offences overlooked by the official on the pitch.

The player's behaviour can be viewed as part of a disreputable tendency. Rangers' attempt to make progress in the European Cup this season has already been hindered by the indiscipline that saw Alan McLaren and Alex Cleland sent off. Had a more rigorous referee been in charge on Saturday, the same recklessness would have been met with further punishment.

In Gascoigne's case, frustration may help to explain behaviour that cannot be excused. Once he had enough pace to surge away from a tackle, but now, caught by it, he attempts to strike or shove his way free. The overreaction to a challenge may also stem from his fear for legs and joints that have already sustained far too much damage during his career.

There is also the added vexation of his own poor form in the past few weeks. After the years of injury, Gascoigne sought nothing more than the chance to play football each and every Saturday but now

he is discovering the hardship within that ambition and appeared weary even before finding that England would require him to remain in London until Saturday morning, necessitating the late dash to Glasgow.

Walter Smith, the Rangers manager, was absent on Saturday, having headed out to South America to watch a striker who has been recommended to the club.

The possibility of a new signing is always stimulating, but with Aberdeen dominant in midfield throughout the enthralling match - goals coming from Jess for Aberdeen after 28 minutes and Salenko five minutes before half-time - it is just as important that Rangers restore Gascoigne to effectiveness.

Gascoigne remains one booking short of a suspension. On first coming to Ibrox, he promised blood and sweat for his new club - but now the tears are also in danger of returning to his career.

Akuamoah leaves Wisbech with few crumbs of comfort

Kingstonian 5
Wisbech Town 1

By NICK SZCZEPANIK

IT MAY be a measure of the confidence and ambition among non-league clubs these days - or the low esteem in which they hold the Endsleigh Insurance League - that, for the likes of Kingstonian, a home tie against a second or third division team is no longer seen as an end in itself. "I'd like a club at our own level in the second round," Billy Smith, the manager, said after the Ics League premier division team's 5-1 win over Wisbech Town on Saturday. "I don't mind waiting until the big boys come in."

For much of the match, however, the giant-killers of last season looked in danger of laying themselves. The visitors, of the Jewson Eastern Counties League, took the lead

in the tenth minute from McLaughlin's exquisitely flung free kick, and held it beyond half-time, thanks to a spirited back-to-the-wall defence which suggested that their season could yet be remembered for Cup glory rather than the club's earlier fine and suspension for failing to lay on good enough sandwiches at home games.

Chances came and went for Kingstonian, mostly created by the pace and control of Eddie Akuamoah, the England Students International, on the left wing. In one of those delicious Cup ironies, he was opposed by a greying full back who works for the makers of Grecian 2000.

The equaliser finally arrived after 52 minutes. Wingfield scoring from close range after the mother of all goalmouth scrambles, and when Riley, supplied by Akuamoah, headed a second goal three minutes later. Wisbech were gone. A

Argyle put paid to Slough's thirst for glory

Slough Town 0
Plymouth Argyle 2

By RUSSELL KEMPSON

WHAT was it that Sir John Betjeman said about Slough? Was it not something to do with the dropping of bombs in its immediate vicinity, such was its lack of aesthetic appeal to the Poet Laureate? In the FA Cup first round on Saturday, Slough did little to improve its image.

Internal roadworks clog the M4, which separates the town from those noble seats of Windsor Castle and Eton College, and a fine, grey mist, later deteriorating into driving rain, hung over the vast industrial estates. At least the sickly smell of chocolate, from the Mars factory, appeared to have temporarily faded.

Wexham Park, though, was a hive of activity, a neat, purposeful stadium, whose regular inhabitants welcomed enthusiastically the green and white Devonian hordes of Plymouth Argyle, from the Endsleigh Insurance League third division, to the Buckinghamshire/Berkshire border. Shame about the rule that decreed no alcohol on the premises, before and after the game, when playing opposition from above Vauxhall Conference level.

Thus there were no drowning of sorrows for Slough Town after an entirely admin-

FA Cup results and replay dates Page 30

able performance, and no celebrations for Argyle after an initially cautious yet ultimately decisive display. No FA Cup glory for the plucky minnows, but a passably enjoyable day for all as the distant jets pierced the gloom on their leisurely glide into Heathrow.

In the first half, Slough played like a mid-table Conference side that had conceded two goals a game, barely believing that they had a chance until it had passed them by. In the 61st minute, Billy crossed from the right and Harvey deflected the ball into his own net. "I knew I was going to get it first, but it just flew in off the top of my shin-pad," Harvey, 26, said.

Dave Russell, the Slough manager, vaguely appreciated the irony. "Although he's a defender, he likes to get forward, and we felt he was due a goal," he said. "He hasn't scored this season... it wasn't the best time to start, was it?" Heathcoat's towering header from Leadbitter's free kick, 13 minutes from time, concluded the argument.

"A few lads needed a kick up the backside at half-time, they were playing within themselves, but the attitude was good in the end," Neil Warnock, the Plymouth manager, said. "I just love this competition. It's the greatest in the world."

Sir John, possibly, would also have derived a smidgen of pleasure had he journeyed to Wexham Park, even if allowing himself a smirk at the result. In reality, though, it was just another dark, dank day in Slough.

SLOUGH TOWN (5-2-3) D. Priddle - C. Horner, I. Harvey, A. Pans, T. Barron, M. Flett (sub: S. Raine, 72 min) - A. Clemen, V. Wells - A. Bushby (sub: P. Lee, 83), M. West, R. Pickett (sub: G. Blackman, 72). PLYMOUTH ARGYLE (4-4-2) K. Blackwell - M. Patterson, M. Heathcote, K. Hill, P. Williams - C. Baily (sub: R. Logan, 88), G. Leadbitter, C. Leadbitter - A. Llewellyn, M. Evans. Referee: P. Dunn

1996 EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIP QUALIFYING TOURNAMENT



England, as hosts, qualify automatically for the 1996 European championship finals but the holders, Denmark, do not. The eight group winners qualify, as do the six best second-placed teams. The other two second-placed teams will play off in Liverpool on December 13 to complete the field of 16. The six best runners-up will be determined by results achieved against the first, third and fourth-placed teams in each group.

GROUP ONE

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|-----------|---|---|---|---|----|----|-----|
| Spain | 9 | 7 | 2 | 0 | 22 | 4 | 23 |
| Denmark | 9 | 5 | 3 | 1 | 16 | 8 | 18 |
| Belgium | 9 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 18 | 12 | 14 |
| Macedonia | 9 | 2 | 4 | 3 | 10 | 14 | 10 |
| Cyprus | 9 | 1 | 3 | 5 | 9 | 19 | 6 |
| Armenia | 9 | 0 | 2 | 7 | 3 | 15 | 2 |

RESULTS: Nov 18: Cyprus v Belgium; Denmark v Armenia.

GROUP TWO

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|----------|---|---|---|---|----|----|-----|
| Romania | 9 | 5 | 3 | 1 | 16 | 9 | 18 |
| France | 9 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 12 | 12 | 14 |
| Slovakia | 9 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 14 | 12 | 12 |
| Poland | 9 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 13 | 18 | 9 |
| Armenia | 9 | 0 | 0 | 9 | 2 | 29 | 0 |

RESULTS: Nov 15: Slovakia v Romania; Armenia v Poland; France v Israel.

GROUP THREE

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|-------------|---|---|---|---|----|----|-----|
| Hungary | 9 | 5 | 2 | 2 | 16 | 10 | 17 |
| Turkey | 9 | 4 | 2 | 3 | 14 | 12 | 14 |
| Sweden | 9 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 13 | 13 | 12 |
| Switzerland | 9 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 13 | 18 | 9 |
| Israel | 9 | 1 | 2 | 6 | 5 | 12 | 5 |

RESULTS: Nov 15: Sweden v Turkey; Hungary v Israel; Switzerland v Sweden.

GROUP FOUR

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|----------|---|---|---|---|----|----|-----|
| Ukraine | 9 | 5 | 2 | 2 | 16 | 10 | 17 |
| Italy | 9 | 4 | 2 | 3 | 14 | 12 | 14 |
| Croatia | 9 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 13 | 13 | 12 |
| Slovenia | 9 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 13 | 18 | 9 |
| Ukraine | 9 | 1 | 2 | 6 | 5 | 12 | 5 |

RESULTS: Nov 15: Ukraine v Croatia; Italy v Slovenia; Croatia v Ukraine.

GROUP FIVE

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|-----------|---|---|---|---|----|----|-----|
| Czech Rep | 9 | 5 | 2 | 2 | 16 | 10 | 17 |
| Norway | 9 | 4 | 2 | 3 | 14 | 12 | 14 |
| Belarus | 9 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 13 | 13 | 12 |
| Latvia | 9 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 13 | 18 | 9 |
| Ukraine | 9 | 1 | 2 | 6 | 5 | 12 | 5 |

RESULTS: Nov 15: Slovenia v Croatia; Italy v Ukraine; Lithuania v Italy.

GROUP SIX

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|----------|---|---|---|---|----|----|-----|
| Portugal | 9 | 5 | 2 | 2 | 16 | 10 | 17 |
| Austria | 9 | 4 | 2 | 3 | 14 | 12 | 14 |
| Finland | 9 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 13 | 13 | 12 |
| Sweden | 9 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 13 | 18 | 9 |
| Ukraine | 9 | 1 | 2 | 6 | 5 | 12 | 5 |

RESULTS: Nov 15: Slovenia v Croatia; Italy v Ukraine; Lithuania v Italy.

GROUP SEVEN

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---------|---|---|---|---|----|----|-----|
| Georgia | 9 | 5 | 2 | 2 | 16 | 10 | 17 |
| Ukraine | 9 | 4 | 2 | 3 | 14 | 12 | 14 |
| Belarus | 9 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 13 | 13 | 12 |
| Latvia | 9 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 13 | 18 | 9 |
| Ukraine | 9 | 1 | 2 | 6 | 5 | 12 | 5 |

RESULTS: Nov 15: Slovenia v Croatia; Italy v Ukraine; Lithuania v Italy.

GROUP EIGHT

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---------|---|---|---|---|----|----|-----|
| Russia | 9 | 5 | 2 | 2 | 16 | 10 | 17 |
| Ukraine | 9 | 4 | 2 | 3 | 14 | 12 | 14 |
| Belarus | 9 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 13 | 13 | 12 |
| Latvia | 9 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 13 | 18 | 9 |
| Ukraine | 9 | 1 | 2 | 6 | 5 | 12 | 5 |

RESULTS: Nov 15: Slovenia v Croatia; Italy v Ukraine; Lithuania v Italy.

FINAL PLAY-OFF

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|-----------|---|---|---|---|----|----|-----|
| Spain | 9 | 5 | 2 | 2 | 16 | 10 | 17 |
| Denmark | 9 | 4 | 2 | 3 | 14 | 12 | 14 |
| Belgium | 9 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 13 | 13 | 12 |
| Macedonia | 9 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 13 | 18 | 9 |
| Cyprus | 9 | 1 | 2 | 6 | 5 | 12 | 5 |

RESULTS: Nov 15: Slovenia v Croatia; Italy v Ukraine; Lithuania v Italy.

1996 DATES

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|-----------|---|---|---|---|----|----|-----|
| Spain | 9 | 5 | 2 | 2 | 16 | 10 | 17 |
| Denmark | 9 | 4 | 2 | 3 | 14 | 12 | 14 |
| Belgium | 9 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 13 | 13 | 12 |
| Macedonia | 9 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 13 | 18 | 9 |
| Cyprus | 9 | 1 | 2 | 6 | 5 | 12 | 5 |

RESULTS: Nov 15: Slovenia v Croatia; Italy v Ukraine; Lithuania v Italy.

FIRST DIVISION

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|--------------|----|----|---|---|----|----|-----|
| Derby | 19 | 11 | 5 | 3 | 31 | 17 | 38 |
| Sheff Wed | 19 | 10 | 6 | 3 | 28 | 18 | 36 |
| Sheff Utd | 19 | 10 | 5 | 4 | 27 | 19 | 35 |
| Sheff Friars | 19 | 10 | 4 | 5 | 26 | 20 | 34 |
| Sheff Albion | 19 | 10 | 3 | 6 | 25 | 21 | 33 |

RESULTS: Nov 15: Slovenia v Croatia; Italy v Ukraine; Lithuania v Italy.

SECOND DIVISION

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|--------------|----|----|---|---|----|----|-----|
| Derby | 19 | 11 | 5 | 3 | 31 | 17 | 38 |
| Sheff Wed | 19 | 10 | 6 | 3 | 28 | 18 | 36 |
| Sheff Utd | 19 | 10 | 5 | 4 | 27 | 19 | 35 |
| Sheff Friars | 19 | 10 | 4 | 5 | 26 | 20 | 34 |
| Sheff Albion | 19 | 10 | 3 | 6 | 25 | 21 | 33 |

RESULTS: Nov 15: Slovenia v Croatia; Italy v Ukraine; Lithuania v Italy.

THIRD DIVISION

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|--------------|----|----|---|---|----|----|-----|
| Derby | 19 | 11 | 5 | 3 | 31 | 17 | 38 |
| Sheff Wed | 19 | 10 | 6 | 3 | 28 | 18 | 36 |
| Sheff Utd | 19 | 10 | 5 | 4 | 27 | 19 | 35 |
| Sheff Friars | 19 | 10 | 4 | 5 | 26 | 20 | 34 |
| Sheff Albion | 19 | 10 | 3 | 6 | 25 | 21 | 33 |

RESULTS: Nov 15: Slovenia v Croatia; Italy v Ukraine; Lithuania v Italy.

FOURTH DIVISION

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|--------------|----|----|---|---|----|----|-----|
| Derby | 19 | 11 | 5 | 3 | 31 | 17 | 38 |
| Sheff Wed | 19 | 10 | 6 | 3 | 28 | 18 | 36 |
| Sheff Utd | 19 | 10 | 5 | 4 | 27 | 19 | 35 |
| Sheff Friars | 19 | 10 | 4 | 5 | 26 | 20 | 34 |
| Sheff Albion | 19 | 10 | 3 | 6 | 25 | 21 | 33 |

RESULTS: Nov 15: Slovenia v Croatia; Italy v Ukraine; Lithuania v Italy.

FIFTH DIVISION

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|--------------|----|----|---|---|----|----|-----|
| Derby | 19 | 11 | 5 | 3 | 31 | 17 | 38 |
| Sheff Wed | 19 | 10 | 6 | 3 | 28 | 18 | 36 |
| Sheff Utd | 19 | 10 | 5 | 4 | 27 | 19 | 35 |
| Sheff Friars | 19 | 10 | 4 | 5 | 26 | 20 | 34 |
| Sheff Albion | 19 | 10 | 3 | 6 | 25 | 21 | 33 |

RESULTS: Nov 15: Slovenia v Croatia; Italy v Ukraine; Lithuania v Italy.

SIXTH DIVISION

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|--------------|----|----|---|---|----|----|-----|
| Derby | 19 | 11 | 5 | 3 | 31 | 17 | 38 |
| Sheff Wed | 19 | 10 | 6 | 3 | 28 | 18 | 36 |
| Sheff Utd | 19 | 10 | 5 | 4 | 27 | 19 | 35 |
| Sheff Friars | 19 | 10 | 4 | 5 | 26 | 20 | 34 |
| Sheff Albion | 19 | 10 | 3 | 6 | 25 | 21 | 33 |

RESULTS: Nov 15: Slovenia v Croatia; Italy v Ukraine; Lithuania v Italy.

SEVENTH DIVISION

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|--------------|----|----|---|---|----|----|-----|
| Derby | 19 | 11 | 5 | 3 | 31 | 17 | 38 |
| Sheff Wed | 19 | 10 | 6 | 3 | 28 | 18 | 36 |
| Sheff Utd | 19 | 10 | 5 | 4 | 27 | 19 | 35 |
| Sheff Friars | 19 | 10 | 4 | 5 | 26 | 20 | 34 |
| Sheff Albion | 19 | 10 | 3 | 6 | 25 | 21 | 33 |

RESULTS: Nov 15: Slovenia v Croatia; Italy v Ukraine; Lithuania v Italy.

EIGHTH DIVISION

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|--------------|----|----|---|---|----|----|-----|
| Derby | 19 | 11 | 5 | 3 | 31 | 17 | 38 |
| Sheff Wed | 19 | 10 | 6 | 3 | 28 | 18 | 36 |
| Sheff Utd | 19 | 10 | 5 | 4 | 27 | 19 | 35 |
| Sheff Friars | 19 | 10 | 4 | 5 | 26 | 20 | 34 |
| Sheff Albion | 19 | 10 | 3 | 6 | 25 | 21 | 33 |

RESULTS: Nov 15: Slovenia v Croatia; Italy v Ukraine; Lithuania v Italy.

NINTH DIVISION

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|--------------|----|----|---|---|----|----|-----|
| Derby | 19 | 11 | 5 | 3 | 31 | 17 | 38 |
| Sheff Wed | 19 | 10 | 6 | 3 | 28 | 18 | 36 |
| Sheff Utd | 19 | 10 | 5 | 4 | 27 | 19 | 35 |
| Sheff Friars | 19 | 10 | 4 | 5 | 26 | 20 | 34 |
| Sheff Albion | 19 | 10 | 3 | 6 | 25 | 21 | 33 |

RESULTS: Nov 15: Slovenia v Croatia; Italy v Ukraine; Lithuania v Italy.

TENTH DIVISION

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|--------------|----|----|---|---|----|----|-----|
| Derby | 19 | 11 | 5 | 3 | 31 | 17 | 38 |
| Sheff Wed | 19 | 10 | 6 | 3 | 28 | 18 | 36 |
| Sheff Utd | 19 | 10 | 5 | 4 | 27 | 19 | 35 |
| Sheff Friars | 19 | 10 | 4 | 5 | 26 | 20 | 34 |
| Sheff Albion | 19 | 10 | 3 | 6 | 25 | 21 | 33 |

RESULTS: Nov 15: Slovenia v Croatia; Italy v Ukraine; Lithuania v Italy.

ELEVENTH DIVISION

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|--------------|----|----|---|---|----|----|-----|
| Derby | 19 | 11 | 5 | 3 | 31 | 17 | 38 |
| Sheff Wed | 19 | 10 | 6 | 3 | 28 | 18 | 36 |
| Sheff Utd | 19 | 10 | 5 | 4 | 27 | 19 | 35 |
| Sheff Friars | 19 | 10 | 4 | 5 | 26 | 20 | 34 |
| Sheff Albion | 19 | 10 | 3 | 6 | 25 | 21 | 33 |

RESULTS: Nov 15: Slovenia v Croatia; Italy v Ukraine; Lithuania v Italy.

TWELFTH DIVISION

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|--------------|----|----|---|---|----|----|-----|
| Derby | 19 | 11 | 5 | 3 | 31 | 17 | 38 |
| Sheff Wed | 19 | 10 | 6 | 3 | 28 | 18 | 36 |
| Sheff Utd | 19 | 10 | 5 | 4 | 27 | 19 | 35 |
| Sheff Friars | 19 | 10 | 4 | 5 | 26 | 20 | 34 |
| Sheff Albion | 19 | 10 | 3 | 6 | 25 | 21 | 33 |

RESULTS: Nov 15: Slovenia v Croatia; Italy v Ukraine; Lithuania v Italy.

THIRTEENTH DIVISION

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|--------------|----|----|---|---|----|----|-----|
| Derby | 19 | 11 | 5 | 3 | 31 | 17 | 38 |
| Sheff Wed | 19 | 10 | 6 | 3 | 28 | 18 | 36 |
| Sheff Utd | 19 | 10 | 5 | 4 | 27 | 19 | 35 |
| Sheff Friars | 19 | 10 | 4 | 5 | 26 | 20 | 34 |
| Sheff Albion | 19 | 10 | 3 | 6 | 25 | 21 | 33 |

RESULTS: Nov 15: Slovenia v Croatia; Italy v Ukraine; Lithuania v Italy.

FOURTEENTH DIVISION

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|--------------|----|----|---|---|----|----|-----|
| Derby | 19 | 11 | 5 | 3 | 31 | 17 | 38 |
| Sheff Wed | 19 | 10 | 6 | 3 | 28 | 18 | 36 |
| Sheff Utd | 19 | 10 | 5 | 4 | 27 | 19 | 35 |
| Sheff Friars | 19 | 10 | 4 | 5 | 26 | 20 | 34 |
| Sheff Albion | 19 | 10 | 3 | 6 | 25 | 21 | 33 |

RESULTS: Nov 15: Slovenia v Croatia; Italy v Ukraine; Lithuania v Italy.

FIFTEENTH DIVISION

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|--------------|----|----|---|---|----|----|-----|
| Derby | 19 | 11 | 5 | 3 | 31 | 17 | 38 |
| Sheff Wed | 19 | 10 | 6 | 3 | 28 | 18 | 36 |
| Sheff Utd | 19 | 10 | 5 | 4 | 27 | 19 | 35 |
| Sheff Friars | 19 | 10 | 4 | 5 | 26 | 20 | 34 |
| Sheff Albion | 19 | 10 | 3 | 6 | 25 | 21 | 33 |

RESULTS: Nov 15: Slovenia v Croatia; Italy v Ukraine; Lithuania v Italy.

SIXTEENTH DIVISION

| | P |
|--|---|
|--|---|

Lessing runs rivals down to regain world title

FROM DAVID POWELL IN CANCUN, MEXICO

SHOWING remarkable powers of recovery, Simon Lessing, of Great Britain, and Karen Smyers, of the United States, won the respective International Triathlon Union (ITU) men's and women's world titles here yesterday within six weeks of recording significant victories in long distance events. Lessing regained the title he last won in 1992, maintaining a four-year British hold on the men's championship, and Smyers went to the top of the podium for the first time since 1990.

Only six weeks ago, Lessing, 24, won the ITU world long distance championship, a six-hour race, and now goes down in history as the first athlete to do the double. Smyers, 34, won the Hawaii Ironman race, a nine-hour event, five weeks ago and her victory could hardly have been more

some 60 men streamed single-file into the transition area before the final discipline, the run.

In the men's race, Benjamin Sanson, from France, and Haydn Woolley, from New Zealand, held a considerable lead of 1min 17sec after the swim. However, Lessing was in the chasing group together with Brad Beven, twice a runner-up but never a winner in the ride the leaders had been caught and, by the three-quarter mark in the 40km discipline, less than half a minute covered the first and sixteenth competitors.

Greg Bennett, Beven's fellow Australian, was first into his stride on the run with Lessing in tenth place but less than 50 metres behind. Lessing, however, has a reputation for being a strong runner and it was not long before he took the lead which he extended to some 300 metres by the finish.

Lessing won in 1hr 48min 29sec with Beven second in 1hr 49min 24sec. Ralf Eggert, of Germany, was third in 1hr 49min 53sec. Beven, it has been said, does not have the mental strength to cope with the big occasion and that seemed to be the case here. He had been working hard on his running discipline, and had recorded the outstanding time of 30min 02sec on the 10km running leg of a recent World Cup race in Sydney.

Here, though, he crumbled under Lessing's challenge, though this was something of a triumph for the French town of Salon de Provence because the winner and runner-up live only a kilometre apart and train together. "It's hard sometimes when we are rivals but when it comes down to racing we both know what the story is," Beven had said before the race. "Running is the most important leg of the triathlon and one of the reasons for training with Simon is that he is renowned as a runner." Beven, clearly, still has some learning to do.

Like Lessing, Smyers proved far too good for the opposition on the run. She recorded 2hr 5min 25sec, with Jackie Gallagher, of Australia, second in 2hr 05min 26sec and Joy Leutner, of the United States, third in 2hr 05min 53sec.

A surprising absentee from the medal positions was the defending champion, Emma Carney, from Australia.



Lessing: powerful finish

ironic. These were the first world championships which allowed the controversial element of drafting and, at the ITU congress which preceded the races here, Smyers spoke against drafting.

This was the brave new world of triathlon. The ITU is now committed to drafting, which allows slipstreaming, whereas in previous world championships the practice has been banned and athletes have been able to break away on the cycling leg. The decision led to Lessing's fellow Briton, Spencer Smith, the 1993 and 1994 champion, to boycott the race, as did Michelle Jones, the 1992 and 1993 women's champion.

The ITU believes drafting makes racing more entertaining for spectators and television. Certainly yesterday it removed any prospect of a runaway leader because, in both races, the ride ended with the leaders bunched together in huge numbers. A group of 25 women came in together;

Leagaune tragedy mars cross-country enterprise

Andrew Longmore
sees a sad ending
to a praiseworthy
experiment at the
home of jump racing

The tears that Simon McNeill shed for his gallant Leagaune dampened an afternoon of experiment which deserved a kinder fate at Cheltenham yesterday. Coming into the ditch and bank for the third time in the inaugural cross-country Sporting Index Chase, the 13-year-old dropped his hind legs into the ditch, pitched forward and broke his back on top of the bank.

By the time McGregor The Third had fought his way up the hill, a worthy winner of the £5,274 first prize, followed by the six other survivors from the 14-strong field, green screens had shielded the crueler reality of their sport and Leagaune had joined a set of statistics which show racehorses to be worth more than a row of form figures.

Leagaune was no Desert Orchid, but McNeill was distraught afterwards, weeping openly on the shoulder of the owner, and his despair was heightened by the understanding that the accident was due to ill luck, more than any over-ambition on the part of the Cheltenham executive, which had enterprisingly built the first cross-country course in Britain and staged the first race since the old days at Prestbury Park when chases were run from steep to steeple. For all the precautions taken to ensure the safety of the runners, there is no legislation for ill fortune. The sadness was that the familiar dangers of racing should take the gloss off a novel idea.

"It could have happened at any fence, anywhere," McNeill emphasised. "He just shortened his stride coming into the bank. He'd jumped it brilliantly on the first two circuits and, nine times out of ten, you would get away with it. It was just plain bad luck."

There was an unusual feeling of tension in the air before the race, a fear of the unexpected masked in traditional fashion by laughter and a few spartan cries of "good luck" as the jockeys left the sanctuary of the weighing-room. Oliver Sherwood wanted his stable jockey, Jamie Osborne, back in one piece and told Compton Hellyer, the owner



McGregor The Third, the winner, leads Live And Let Live in the Sporting Index Chase at Cheltenham yesterday. Photograph: Julian Herbert

of Docklands Express and chairman of Sporting Index, the sponsors, that there would be hell to pay otherwise. It was only half a joke. One trainer had forbidden his jockey to ride and reports of a hairy schooling session on Docklands Express over the course a few days before suggested that some anxieties were well-founded.

As it was, the classy Docklands Express proved more than up to the task. His speed might be diminished with age, but his brain remains as sharp as ever. His third place more than vindicated the

brave decision of his owner and the trainer, Kim Bailey, to risk one of his stable's most profitable and best-loved contributors. "I was more nervous than I have ever been before a race," Bailey said. "But he's a clever animal and I hope his success will encourage others to have a go. It's good for racing to have something a bit different."

A bit different indeed. Not only Docklands Express would have been forgiven for regarding any one of the 27 fences which made up the three-mile course run round a double figure-of-eight in the

middle of Prestbury as beneath his dignity. Fences with laurel hedges perched decorously on top, a fiendish water hazard, a set of wooden railings, the bank, criss-crossed so many times it demanded traffic lights, and to make such old soldiers as Fiddlers Pike feel at home, a fence modelled on the Canal Turn at Aintree.

None seemed to discomfit Brian Harding, the young Irishman aboard McGregor The Third, who has been weaned on such courses in Co Cork and guided his nine-year-old with all the confi-

dence of a seasoned veteran on only his second ride at Cheltenham. "I've done a little hunting and that helped," Harding said. "But, to be honest, I was just sitting there and steering."

Its A Snip also fell at the bank and five others pulled up, leaving seven finishers. "That was about what I had hoped for," said Edward Gillespie, chief executive of Cheltenham, whose brainchild the race was. "The race had a wonderful rhythm to it. We'll learn our lessons and, hopefully, repeat the event next year."

Kirchhoff makes light of conditions to eclipse Charles

FROM JENNY MACARTHUR IN MILLSTREET, CO CORK

ULRICH KIRCHHOFF, of Germany, the stylish winner of the British Grand Prix at Hickstead in June, added the Volvo Millstreet World Cup qualifier to his list of equestrian successes after an unimpaired display of jumping here on Saturday night on his young Dutch stallion, Emilien.

However, the event was marred by the slippery ground in the arena that caused two of the eight horses in the jump-off — Shalom Hall, ridden by Maria Backstrom, of Sweden, and Dominant, ridden by Cameron Hanley, of Ireland — to fall.

Peter Charles, the European champion, on La Ina, had

looked the likely winner after a faultless round, but the Hampshire-based Irishman knew that his time of 36.02sec could be beaten. Kirchhoff, the last to go, had seen the two falls, and asked his groom to put two long studs in the hind shoes of Emilien. He flew round the six-fence course in 34.13sec.

Delighted at winning his first qualifier — and a £20,000 car — Kirchhoff, 28, raised his cap in a victory salute and galloped round the arena several times. Despite seeing their favourite, Charles, defeated, the crowd responded to the German's enthusiasm.

The British riders had a dreadful time. Michael Whitaker, whose Everest Two Step had earlier been presented with the award for the best

show jumper of the year, had to withdraw when the gelding pulled a muscle in his back shortly before he was due in the ring. Whitaker, who had only brought Two Step to please the organisers, who wanted him at the presentation, asked if he could ride his second horse, Let's Go, but was refused. Under international rules, a horse cannot be

substituted once a competition has started.

The best of the eight other Britons were Nick Skelton, who as holder automatically qualifies for the World Cup final in Geneva in April, and Kim Stockdale. Riding Showtime and Toggi's interview respectively, they each had one fence down to finish equal ninth.

John Whitaker, whose daughter, Louise, yesterday won the 14.2th championship on Forever Katie, had eight faults on Everest Gammon. Di Lampard and Abbeville Dream, among the favourites after finishing second and third in the Helsinki and Oslo qualifiers last month, faulted at both parts of the double.

The British fared little better

in the Speed Derby yesterday, which was won by Alexandra Ladermann, of France, on her new speed mare, Rocking Blue. Britain's best performance came from Skelton on Everest Limited Edition who, unaffected by his fall the previous night, finished clear to take fifth place.

Results, page 39

SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

BY ROBERT SHEEHAN, BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT

This was a poor combined performance by Senior and myself. It was in a critical match of the BBL Premier League against Hackett.

| Dealer West | North-South game | IMPs |
|---|--|------|
| ♠ 10 9 8 ♥ A 2 ♦ A K 9 8 3 2 ♣ Q J | ♠ K J 7 6 2 ♥ Q J 8 6 5 4 ♦ 7 ♣ A | |

| W | N | E | S |
|--------|---------|-----------|--------|
| Robson | Sheehan | Forrester | Senior |
| Pass | 3♥ | 3♥ | 3♥ |
| 5♥ | Pass | Pass | 6♥ |
| Pass | 6♥ | All Pass | |

Contract: Six Spades by South. Lead: King of Hearts

Forrester's decision to overcall the One Diamond opening with a pre-emptive bid of Three Hearts worked well. Other possibilities on his hand were Two Diamonds (the 'Michaels Cue bid'), showing length in both majors, or One Heart, hoping to get spades into the game later.

Either of those actions would have kept North-South out of trouble. Senior's bid of Three Spades was natural and forcing and Robson made a daring leap to Five Hearts.

This set me an awkward problem. It did not seem right to bid Five Spades holding only three small trumps; on the other hand, doubling would imply that I had no interest in higher contracts. So I passed, in this auction a 'forcing pass', requiring my

partner to take action when it came back to him. Now that I look at it again, I think I should have doubled — A x in hearts would not be much use in higher North-South contracts.

Senior then took the view that if I had a singleton heart (which sounded likely from the strong bidding of East-West), and that as I had made an encouraging noise in passing Five Hearts, there might be a slam. His weak spades should have warned him off but, anyway, he toiled on with Six Clubs. Now we arrived in Six Spades, which went three off: 1,100 or so was available in Five Hearts doubled.

Robert Sheehan writes on bridge Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

ACAPNIA
a. Lack of carbon dioxide
b. Insomnia
c. Without smoke

GRAUNCH
a. The belly
b. To crunch
c. A stonemason's chisel

BATTA
a. Sumatran
b. A battered poppadum
c. An Indonesian coin
DENTEX
a. Toothpaste
b. A curved hinge
c. The bream

Answers on page 45

KEENE on CHESS

BY RAYMOND KEENE
CHESS CORRESPONDENT

Adams out
British grandmaster Michael Adams, the winner of the London leg of the speed chess grand prix in August, was summarily eliminated from the final competition of the series in Paris. He was defeated by the French grandmaster Joel Lautier. In the following game Lautier established an opening grip which he maintained till the end of the game.

White: Joel Lautier
Black: Michael Adams
Paris Grand Prix, 1995

Catalan Opening
1 d4 Nf6
2 c4 e6
3 g3 d5
4 Bg2 Be7
5 Nf3 cxd4
6 O-O O-O
7 Qc2 a6
8 a4 Bd7
9 Qxc4 Bc6
10 Bf4 a5
11 Nc3 Na6
12 Bx1 Bx3
13 Bxf3 c5
14 e4 Nf4
15 Rfd1 Rf8
16 Qe2 Re8
17 h4 h6
18 Bg2 Qb6
19 Bc3 Bf8
20 Bh3 Bf8
21 Qf3 Rf8
22 Bf4 Nd7
23 d5 cxd5
24 exd5 Nf6
25 Bc3 Nf6
26 Bf4 Rf8
27 Bb1 Rf8
28 h5 Rf8
29 Nf4 Rf8
30 Nf4 Rf8
31 Rf4 Rf8
32 Bc5 Nf6
33 Bf4 Rf8
34 Nf6+ Rf8
35 Qe4 Qd7
36 Bf4 cxd5
37 Qxd5 Rf8

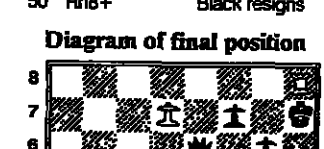


Diagram of final position

Schools' chess
Having sponsored the world chess championship in New York and the Paris Grand Prix, Intel are now supporting British schools chess. To complement The Times Championship for schools' teams, Intel are supporting an individual schools tournament, hoping for 30,000 players to enter. For further information contact Michael Basman, the organiser, tel 0181-397 1826.

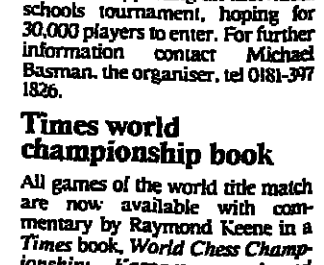
Times world championship book
All games of the world title match are now available with commentary by Raymond Keene in a Times book, World Chess Championship: Kasparov v Anand (Batsford £9.99). Credit card orders on 01376 327901 (please quote 5655).

Raymond Keene writes on chess Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene

This position is from the game Ghinda — Gogilea, Romania 1981. In this position Black forced a neat checkmate with a series of brilliant sacrifices. Can you see what he played?



Solution on page 45

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SONGS AGAIN
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As a new scheme focuses on finding a national champion, Jennai Cox focuses on keeping her balance

It's time to face the music and ice dance



Jennai Cox is taught the Dutch roll and the forward crossover by Michael Aldred at Basingstoke

The French Ambassador was scandalised as he watched a future Queen of England "with very short petticoats tucked halfway up to her waist and with iron skates on her feet, learning to slide". Little did he know that the 15-year-old Mary Stuart was setting the short-skirt fashion for a sport which three centuries later would be pursued by 14 million of her countrymen a year, and attract higher television viewing figures than cricket or the FA Cup Final.

Twenty-three million people tuned in to watch Torvill and Dean in the 1994 Winter Olympics. Not since John Curry, who in 1976 held the British, European and Olympic men's figure-skating titles, had there been a real British ice hero, so the National Ice Skating Association (Nisa) launched a scheme in the hope of producing future national champions.

The scarecrow, buntwister and teapot are three moves taught in the new ten-part programme called Fun Skate. The first nationally organised learn-to-skate scheme, adopted by 40 of the country's 70 rinks, aims to double the number taking lessons to 140,000 by 1997.

Fiona Dickson, the skating director of Basingstoke ice rink, where the 1995 British Skating Championships took place last week, says the sport is entering a new era. "We needed a fresh outlook and are going to make it work," she says.

Part of that fresh outlook is international. Teachers from the former Soviet Union have been brought over to introduce their coaching techniques. Instead of one coach teaching everything, a number of them, each specialising in an aspect of skating, pass on their specific skills. The method is proving popular with professional skaters and showing good results, but is a long-term investment.

In the meantime, teaching more people the basics is being given priority. Learning how to use the edge of skating blades is the first step. On the Olympic-size rink at Basingstoke, with the help of Michael Aldred and Lesley Rogers, who were defending their British pairs championship title this weekend, my own first steps were slippery work. Visions of gliding with grace vanished as my arms became propellers to keep balance. With a bit of daring, basic skating can be fairly quickly con-



Jennai Cox with Michael Aldred and Lesley Rogers

quered, and coaches say that once you have the hang of what was originally called the Dutch roll — pushing against the ice with the edge of one blade and gliding on the other — the moves and spins follow.

Mine didn't. Pointing my toes together with bent knees and straightening them while pushing my feet out in an attempt to skate backwards proved a disaster. Instead of carving a series of pear-shapes on the ice, I ended up after three ill-shaped hexagrams with legs apart, about to resume the splits.

Trying to master the forward crossover, used for turning corners, was equally unsuccessful as poor Michael Aldred took my full body weight and put up with much clashing of skates. I did manage a

half turn, but only in the process of trying to stop. The most thrilling part of my trial-by-ice was when I was not on it at all, and Mr Aldred span me round in a competition-like spin.

Grace and musical artistry may have eluded me, but they are for what John Curry and Torvill and Dean's *Bohème* are best remembered. The art/sport debate continues despite competition rule changes five years ago demolishing the theatrical elements of skating, and fears that ice dance would be excluded from the Olympics for being non-athletic.

Anybody under the illusion that skating on ice is anything but a sport ought to try it for themselves. As well as long hours spent on the ice, champions train in the gym and practise defying gravity for

their jumps in hydro-pools. In tests of top sportsmen and women carried out by Toronto University, ice skaters scored among the highest for overall fitness.

Without a male role model, attracting more boys to the sport has also been difficult. Nisa intends to reverse this by highlighting speed or power skating, which has a more macho image.

"Sport is more than just a pastime now," says Celia Goodall, Nisa's chief executive. "It becomes part of a lifestyle. Sports which isolate themselves miss out."

The association is backing various National Lottery fund bids for improvements to ice rinks. An international-size rink is planned for Richmond, but Nisa wants to see regional centres of excellence with adequate facilities. This would mean that national champions such as Steven Cousins do not have to go abroad to train.

Many British champions also complain of funding difficulties, and find it hard to attract sponsors. The educational side of Nisa has become a charity, and will serve as a skaters' trust offering scholarships and performance grants to compensate. The costs of clothing, coaching and travelling amount to £20,000 a year. Top-level boots, which if used for several hours every day last no longer than a year, cost £700 alone. Dedication has to be financial, as well as physical.

The chance of discovering the next John Curry is raised if more people are on the ice, but spotting tomorrow's talent is also tricky. Some skaters peak in their late teens, whereas others only start improving at that age. The only sure sign of a star is when you cannot take your eyes off them. Ludmila Vasilyeva, one of the Russian coaches, likens seeing a talented skater to watching a good film. "You forget everything else," she says.

While many skaters are deterred by the costs of coaching, six half-hour lessons can now cost as little as £12. Hiring ice boots for a two-hour session costs around £1, and Nisa is developing boots which it hopes to sell for under £40. Opportunities for the would-be champion of one of the oldest sports known to mankind have rarely been greater. It's time to get your skates on.

GETTING YOUR SKATES ON

National Ice Skating Association, 15-27 Gee Street, London EC1V 3RE. Call 0171-253 3824 or 0910 for details of Fun Skate and your nearest ice rink.

Nisa recommends wearing gloves, a sweatshirt, tracksuit bottoms and decent socks. Protective knee and elbow pads can be worn, and the rules on headgear should be checked with the rink manager.

Boots can be hired at all rinks, and most sell secondhand boots.

The British Short Track Speed Skating Championships in January 1996 will take place at the Guildford Spectrum leisure centre. Call 01483 444777 for information. Box office: 01483 445333.

Young blade runs Cousins close

By JOHN HENNESSY

UNEASY lay the head that wore the crown at Basingstoke ice rink on Saturday. Steven Cousins fulfilled expectations by winning his seventh successive British men's ice skating title, but it seemed more a recognition of prestige than performance, almost a representation of "pride and prejudice" on ice.

Only one judge placed him second, to the 17-year-old Neil Wilson, from Belfast, but that one judge speaks with almost more authority than the other six put together. She was Sally Stapleford, five times a British champion, now president of the National Ice Skating Association and a big noise in the International Skating Union.

Wilson, still young enough to compete in the world junior

championships later this month, borrowed not only some of John Curry's "Don Quixote" music, but also some of his style and elegant lines.

He commands the athletic requirement now expected in international skating and performed five clean triple jumps, deprived of a sixth by a stumbled toe-loop in combination with a double. He has now won the second place in the British team for the European and world championships.

Cousins, almost crude by comparison, fell heavily on an opening triple axel, as he had in his short programme, and though he succeeded with four other triples, one of his spins was faulty.

The Dundonald rink in Belfast looks like developing into a successful breeding

ground for British skating under the tuition of a Manchester couple, Phil and Sue Walsh. Besides Wilson, they brought over Matthew Davies and Katherine Allan, respectively second and third



Cousins: seventh title

in the junior championships. Since Phil Walsh was a figure skater and Sue Walsh an ice dancer, they complement each other well in producing rounded skaters. Wilson is certainly that, and in an age when young skaters are emerging from all corners of the former Soviet Union, he would seem to have the quality and character to hold his own.

Britain seems to have at last found an ice dance couple of promise in Marika Humphreys and Philip Askew. Although coming together only 12 weeks ago under the eye of Betty Callaway, they were convincing winners on Saturday and offer the hope that we may not much longer have to sigh nostalgically for the days of Torvill and Dean.

Results, page 39

Wharton sets his sights on Benn

By SRIKUMAR SEN, BOXING CORRESPONDENT

EVEN if Henry Wharton could turn back the clock, he would not want to change one punch of his defeats at the hands of Nigel Benn and Chris Eubank. He learnt so much from those contests that he believes he is a more mature boxer now and, with the exception of Roy Jones Jr, the International Boxing Federation champion, more than a match for any super middleweight in the world.

After his spectacular fourth-round knockout of Sam Storey of Belfast in their European and Commonwealth title bout at Halifax on Saturday, Wharton, 28, said: "I've learnt to cope with awkward people like Mauro Galvao [also knocked out in the fourth round] and southpaws like Storey. I'm a seasoned pro now. I've learnt."

Mickey Duff, the Yorkshireman's manager, said that he would be prepared to put Wharton against either Benn (the World Boxing Council champion) or Steve Collins, the World Boxing Organisation champion. "He is a more mature fighter than when he fought Benn before [1994]," Duff said. "Then, he froze for four rounds."

First, however, Wharton has to defend his European title against the tough Frenchman, Frederic Sellier. Duff will do his best to bring the contest to Yorkshire, possibly Leeds. Wharton is so full of confidence that he does not mind where the bout takes place. "My punches will hurt him just as much in France as in Yorkshire," he said.

While Sellier will no doubt be aware of Wharton's big left hook, the Frenchman could be surprised to find himself facing a southpaw in Wharton, who showed on Saturday that although an orthodox boxer, he can be just as effective with the right hand forward, a tactic he used to counter Storey's southpaw stance.

The tactic worked to perfection. In the first round the Irishman retreated clockwise round the ring putting as much distance as possible between himself and Wharton's left hook. When the champion changed round in the third, however, the end came quickly. Just as Storey started moving the other way, to his right, in the fourth round, the orthodox left hook went in, leaving him unable to beat the count.

Harris goes down fighting to Jansher

FROM COLIN MCQUILLON IN NICOSIA, CYPRUS

JANSHER KHAN remains squash champion of the world. His record seventh title was secured with a 15-10, 17-14, 16-17, 15-8 win over Del Harris, of England, in the Dejeu world open championship final here on Saturday.

Yet his progress to a stature possibly beyond that even of his countryman, Jahangir Khan, was far from dominating here and not entirely assured until well into the fourth game of the final. The 26-year-old Harris, from Dedham, in Essex, played with a maturity and *clan* that contributed to one of the finest world open finals of recent years.

Harris's movement, speed and shot-power seemed to unsettle a defending champion who had been talking all week of the pressures of ensuring that Jahangir's record was overtaken. There were moments in the final when his need looked unlikely to be satisfied and even teetered on the edge of self-destruction when Jansher considered stopping because his blistered feet were burning so much.

Harris led 13-10 in the second game and would have

won it had the referee David Stevenson, seen Jansher's blocking on clinging drop shots as punishable by penalty strokes instead of earning no-let calls against Harris.

"It was pretty hard, I thought," Harris, long renowned for amazing retrieval in the front court, said. "I should have won the second and then the third would have given me 2-1, a very different situation."

With the circus transferring to Cairo for the men's world team championship, England found themselves apparently facing another immediate confrontation with Pakistan, the second seeds in qualifying Pool B, because the organisers had decided to provide Egypt with an entertaining match in that pool during a visit to the championship by President Mohammed Mubarak today.

A protest from the England manager, Stuart Courtney, triggered a return to the original qualifying schedule in which England, the third seeds, who have named their line-up as Simon Parke, Harris, Chris Walker, and Mark Chaloner, face Sweden today. Egypt tomorrow and then Pakistan on Wednesday.

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صكرا من الاصل

SPORTS

THE TIMES ENGLAND v SOUTH AFRICA

SPORTS



England must get off to a flying start

Absence spawns many emotions, none more notable than the awareness of change. When England take the field against South Africa at Centurion Park in Verwoerdburg on Thursday, for instance, they will be playing a game barely recognisable as that which traded as Test cricket when the countries last met in what was to become the forbidden land.

Lest fickle memory has foreshortened the distance we have all come since England last played a Test in South Africa, a few reminders: Labour had just won a General Election, Arle was about to win his second Cheltenham Gold Cup, Alf Ramsey was still plotting

exceptions, are won and not drawn, and the decisive influence is usually fast bowling. So it will be this winter, when the clamour for results will command a high price for the combatants, utterly dwarfing the pittance paid to their predecessors of 1965.

Way back then, the amateurs had just vanished from the English game, but their legacy lived on. The overt professionalism, swept in by Kerry Packer, was still more than a decade distant and the expectations of the players were mild. Test cricket existed as an honour, to watch as well as to play; these days, it is a route to comfort and fame—at least so long as the public is willing to sustain it.

Here, then, is the primary cause for believing this to be as important a Test series as any played in the past few years — perhaps even since the avaricious, divisive yet money-spinning incursions of World Series Cricket 18 years ago. If Test cricket is to prosper, to re-establish its pre-eminence in a world where the lust for quick money has given the instant fix of one-day cricket a seductive lure, the next two months are crucial.

South Africa is to be a principal player as cricket enters the 21st century and the direction its game pursues will be influential. England's preference for Test cricket requires support, which is why it is good to hear Ali Bacher, the soul and conscience of South African cricket, speak passionately of the need to "develop a Test culture" in his country.

England's World Cup glory and Yorkshire were still the dominant force of county cricket. More pertinently, the MCC side (as it was still known) earned little more than £1,000 a man for a four-month tour on which England, who won the series 1-0, took two-thirds of their Test wickets with spin.

So the changes, 30 years on, are dramatic and manifold. Politically, they need no more expansion than the mind-boggling fact that England are here at all. But in cricketing terms, the game has been raised in pace and stakes. Modern Test matches, with few

It is for this reason that admission prices are being kept low and that a television marketing campaign, urging people to support the game and their national Test team, has been vigorously launched to coincide with England's arrival. Bacher tells confidently of predict-



Alan Lee urges Michael Atherton's team not only to win in South Africa but to help develop a Test match culture in one of the game's most important cradles

ed numbers, of the 30,000 beds one hotel chain has sold to Test supporters and of the 350,000 expected to attend the five games. Now we need the facts to support the theory and, as Bacher said: "We don't want all-white crowds. We want a remembrance of the democratic spread."

If the series flourishes, appealing to those of every background and colour in the country, the future for Test cricket will be attractive. South

Africa's return has given a striking new dimension to the Test circuit and, with increasing signs that Australians are coming to their senses and returning their favours to the five-day game after a frantic but soulless affair with limited-overs cricket, the number of high-profile series has never been so great. Soon, perhaps, the attraction of a world Test league will be irresistible.

Established now, it would still

show England unflatteringly closer to the foot of the table than the top. Sure, the summer draw with West Indies was encouraging, but then so was an identical result in 1991. A year later England embarked on a wretched sequence of eight defeats in nine Tests, bringing down a chairman of selectors and a captain. It is also only eight months since the repercussions of yet another heavy Ashes defeat saw the dismissal of a team manager, Keith

Fletcher, amid a widespread belief that the English game had gone rotten to the core.

The clamour for reform at domestic level will, predictably, come to little when the Test and County Cricket Board concludes its autumn review of the structure, but those who pretend to believe that one improved summer indicates a positive swing of the pendulum are doing nobody any favours. At Test level England continue to hover around the pass mark and they will not aspire to honours or distinction until they shed the distressing habit of effectively losing overseas series before their halfway point.

England have lost the first two Tests on their past three winter tours and if they do so again in the coming weeks there will be no way back. Long before Christmas, our game will once more lie, frail and exposed, on the carving board, sharp knives poised over the next casualty of failure. And this would be more than a pity, for it could destroy the best opportunity England have had in many years for a strong, long-term captain.

Michael Atherton has already picked himself up from a variety of mishaps in his two years in charge. The worst may be over, in which case he should still be doing the job at the turn of the century. But he is too wise to be confident of that, too alert to the danger of blame for one more overseas defeat. As usual, he must make runs aplenty to help guard against it. Sporting Index, the spread betting firm, believes he will aggregate between 340 and 360 in the series; I think he could make up to 100 runs more, but I also fear he will need to if England are to have a chance of winning.

South Africa have been prepared for the series by a battalion of backroom staff, ranging from dieticians to psychologists, but Allan

Donald, whose duel with Atherton will be pivotal, tells of the hurdle they have yet to overcome. "We haven't been mentally tough enough in the pressure situations. Teams have come back at us twice as hard once we have got on top of them and we have not been experienced enough to withstand it. It is something we have been working on."

If South Africa snatch an early lead this time, as they consecutively but indecisively did last year against Australia (twice) and England, they will not be so easily caught. So England must prevent it, and on a pitch at Centurion Park likely to be the quickest of the series. Test series do not permit a

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John Woodcock, page 36
Guide to the Test venues, page 37
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How the sides shape up, page 38
Test career averages, page 38

first-round knockout but, if they go down this time, England will be hard pushed to beat the count in what remains of this compelling and critically instructive series.

South Africa have included five fast bowlers and only one spinner in a 12-man party for the first Test match in Verwoerdburg starting on Thursday. With Fanie de Villiers sidelined by a hamstring injury, Shaun Pollock, son of the former South Africa fast bowler, Peter, was named for the first time.

SOUTH AFRICA PARTY: A C Hudson (Natal), G Kruger (Western Province), W J Grothe (Free State), D J Cullinan (Border), J N Rhodes (KwaZulu), B M Makhulu (Mpumalanga), D J Richardson (Eastern Province), S M Pollock (Natal), G R Matthews (Western Province), A A Donald (Free State), S N Schultz (Eastern Province), C E Elstesen (Transvaal).



South Africa's bowling attack will be spearheaded by Brett Schultz (left) and Allan Donald

SKY
NO TURNING BACK

rise to the test!

Michael Henderson finds Robin Smith determined to excel on his return to his native land

'The judge' putting his reputation on trial

There are many reasons for looking forward to England's Test series against South Africa. It is England's first tour there since Mike Smith's team won 31 years ago and gives Michael Henderson, and others, the chance to see how his team is developing. It also gives people a chance to see whether the South Africans, under Hansie Cronje, can find the sense of adventure they lacked under Kepler Wessels.

For England's players it should be a memorable tour and for Robin Smith, "the judge", it cannot fail to be. Smith, England's most senior batsman at the age of 32, with 56 Test matches behind him, is returning to the country of his birth and if it is no longer the land he calls home it must still be a journey that stirs memories.

When he followed his elder brother Chris to Hampshire in 1982, to qualify for Eng-

"This is the biggest tour of my life and I must make sure that I give myself the best chance to do well"

land through residence, it was an entirely expedient decision. South Africa had no place in international cricket at the time, and Chris, who was eventually capped by England in 1983, had shown what rewards were available to the man who persevered. So, too, had Allan Lamb, whom Smith Jr was to join in the Test team five years later.

But it would be unreasonable to mark down R.A. Smith as an opportunist. Since making Hampshire his home, and England his country, he has endeared himself to English cricket-lovers as a brilliant player, and a gutsy one. To play as he has done, tested like few others by fast bowlers who know that he will never avoid a confrontation, and to have come through, scathed certainly but (so far) in one piece, says all that needs to be said about his commitment to the colours.

Certainly, Michael Atherton, who can smell the counter-attack at a couple of paces, is an admirer of Smith and will have him in his best team, form and fitness permitting. The two men happen to be



Smith, batting in the nets in Johannesburg, now wears a grille on his helmet after having his cheekbone fractured by a ball from Ian Bishop at Old Trafford last July

friends as well, which helps, but Smith has no need of that alliance to emphasise a record that reveals nine Test hundreds and an average of 44.

Smith will want to play a full part in the whole series and in particular he will want

to revisit Kingsmead, where the third Test starts on December 14, as an England player. Smith grew up in Durban, excelling at rugby as well as cricket, and generally being an outstanding all-round sportsman.

He can expect a fair hear-

ing. Although some spectators in the early part of the tour responded with a boo or two to his introduction, on the way out to bat, as "the South African-born Robin Smith", it was the response of those who like to draw attention to themselves rather than

any expression of public mood. By and large, South Africans are happy that Smith has made something of his career, and pleased to welcome him back.

"Wherever we have been," Smith said, "people have been very receptive. Specta-

tors have told me that they would like to see me do well but for South Africa to win the series. It would be nice to have a warm reception everywhere but if that doesn't happen I shan't lose sleep about it. I made my decision in 1985 [the final year of his

qualification period] and if people can't accept that there's nothing I can do about it."

In order to win their approval (or not) Smith has first to overcome the psychological pains that followed the all too apparent physical ones

when Ian Bishop fractured his cheekbone at Old Trafford last July. The injury kept Smith out for the rest of the season and now, when he bats, he wears a visor on his helmet.

"I was brought up to bat with nothing in front of my face, and it is taking time to adjust to the visor, but the apprehension has gone. I have never worried about being hit in the face but now it is something I will have to wear all the time."

To be successful this winter Smith must come to terms with two other things, one on-field and the other off it. Pitches in South Africa have become slower while life has become faster, a temptation for a gregarious chap like Smith, who lost his place in the England side last year, partly through over-egging his social pudding.

When Allan Lamb, friend and former team-mate, joins

"By and large, South Africans are happy Smith has made something of his career"

him later this winter for the package tour they have jointly organised, life may become very hectic indeed. Smith is confident he has the measure of it.

"This is the biggest tour of my life and I must make sure that I give myself the best opportunity to do well. I have made mistakes in the past and, because of them, I am now totally focused on what I have to do."

What he has to do is make runs down the order to ensure Atherton's team calculates the one Smith led in 1964-65, when the spin of Fred Titmus and David Allen bowled England to victory in Durban, a win that gave them the series.

The South Africans are not going to provide pitches for spin bowlers this time, trusting instead in the pace of Allan Donald and what appears a strong supporting cast.

A superb player of fast bowling, Smith can expect to see plenty of it in the next two months. "We need Judge," Atherton said. "He has the big match temperament." For the returning native, they are all big matches.

When spinners took turns to torment South Africa

In the days before South Africa's excommunication, the countries that went to play Test cricket there, England, Australia and New Zealand, would look to their slow bowlers to give them an advantage, and more often than not they did so. Visiting wrist spinners, especially, used to have the time of their lives.

Very few South African batsmen were at their best against the flighted ball, whether it turned or not. That was their Achilles' heel. It was while touring South Africa, when he was in his mid-twenties, that Richie Benaud acquired the confidence to develop into a world-class leg spinner. I am sure Bill O'Reilly and Clive Grimmett, Benaud's gurus, would have predicted as much: their own partnership there, a ride of leg breaks and googlies, had brooked no opposition.

Englishmen were scarcely less effective. At home, Roly Jenkins, of Worcestershire, was a more than useful leg spinner, but without quite the bite to be regularly effective against the best batsmen. In South Africa with the MCC party of 1948-49, there was no holding him: with 71 wickets, he was the bowler of the tour. When England went there next, eight years later, Johnny Wardle did even better, taking 90 first-class wickets, 13 more than Brian Statham, Peter Loader and Frank Tyson between them.

Almost invariably, it was the same story. For the New

Zealanders in 1961-62 John Alabaster, a respectable rather than raging leg spinner, surpassed himself with 86 wickets, and in 1964-65, when England were last in South Africa, the first three places in their bowling averages went to Ken Barrington, with his under-stated leg breaks, and the two off spinners, Fred Titmus and David Allen. Four of the five Tests were drawn: the other was won for England by Titmus and Allen. When, therefore, in the first fortnight of this present tour, Richard Illingworth was the only England bowler to do any good, it should have come as no surprise.

More's the pity, then, that England are now so dependent upon quicker bowling. Not that they are alone in this.



John Woodcock looks back to days of plenty on foreign soil for England's slow bowlers

Except in England and Sri Lanka, spinners everywhere have come to be seen as appendages, and there was a time when even India thought that because almost everyone else was bowling at a faster pace they had better do so themselves. They went so far as to get Dennis Lillee to set up a fast bowling academy in Madras, which was much like opening a school for lineout forwards in Okinawa. Since recovering their senses and going back to spin, India have become a force to be reckoned with again.

Take away Shane Warne and Australia's cricket is every bit as bereft of spin as England's, indeed more so. Their second string to Warne is Tim May, who has taken only 39 wickets in his past two seasons at an average of 43.7 and a rate of a wicket every 113 balls. Next comes Peter McIntyre, certainly no better a leg spinner than Ian Salisbury. South Africans, it seems, are never again to be tormented in the way their uncles and their grandfathers were.

I am fairly sure, anyway, that their batsmen would

prove a good deal less vulnerable now even in the event of Benaud or Wardle or Alabaster or any of the others being resurrected. When Australia went to South Africa for three Test matches early last year, Warne had to work hard for his wickets. There were fewer easy pickings for him than I had expected, partly because Hansie Cronje gave an object lesson in how to play him, but also because of television.

I think how much easier it would have been for batsmen to come to terms with the great jugglers of the past with the aid of the special high-quality device, known as "spin vision", which is now in regular use. Borrowed from American baseball, it gives a hugely magnified, slowed-down view of a bowler's hand action, revealing his every trick. Although riveting to watch on television, it seems to count against the bowler, and that is a shame. The wrist spinner's trade is precarious enough without such an intrusion.

In *The Times* of February 19, 1968, the day the last England side flew home from South Africa, my last paragraph on the tour echoed with faint praise. "Records show that over 200,000 fewer people watched MCC than eight years ago. One constant source of pleasure was Bland's magnificent fielding. At the wicket, too, he was a fine sight. For him, Graeme Pollock, Barlow, and the majority of England's batsmen the tour

has brought profit ... but to the game as a whole it has added no particular lustre."

Despite the presence on both sides of some outstanding cricketers (Bob Barber, Geoffrey Boycott, Ted Dexter, Ken Barrington, Jim Parks and Mike Smith, the captain, were England's first six batsmen and South Africa had Graeme and Peter Pollock, Eddie Barlow, Denis Lindsay, Colin Bland and Trevor Goddard) it had been a slow moving, essentially conservative series. Dexter, by the way, had forfeited the England captaincy and delayed his departure for South Africa in October in order to contest the 1964 general election as the Conservative candidate for Cardiff South East, a forlorn task though it was against such a luminary of the Labour Party as Jim Callaghan.

The very fact that the pitches were mostly lifeless and the bowling of both sides inadequate should have worked upon the captains in a way that it never did — I had said that, too. So even then, you see, England lacked the penetration or, for that matter, the inclination to do much more than sit on their lead once they had won the first Test match on a turning pitch. Thirty years on, Michael Atherton's side, so short of top-class spin, and less talented than Mike Smith's, will have to play well to win at all. True to their reputation, South Africa have very soon gone back to being among the doughtiest of opponents.



Wardle was among those who thrived in South Africa, taking 90 first-class wickets on the 1956-57 tour

sports

صباحنا من الامم

Where the Test series will be decided



VERWOERDBURG

Centurion Park, November 16-20

While they dominated the cricket world for most of the past 20 years, West Indies were adept at convincing their opponents that the game had to be played by their rules, which was that fast bowling won matches. That area of the game happened to be their strong suit, they had no spinners of their own and many of their batsmen were uncertain against the turning ball.

Some would now argue that South Africa are in a similar position. They have certainly done an excellent job in giving the impression that the pitch at Verwoerdburg will be a fast bowler's paradise. Pieter Pollock, the convenor of the South Africa selectors, said last week, as he named a 12-man party for the match that contained five fast bowlers and only one spinner, that he expected the pitch to be hard, provide bounce and sport a "fair covering of grass".

But the evidence of recent matches at the ground is less convincing. Brett Schultz, who will take the new ball with Allan Donald for South Africa this week, took six first-innings wickets when he played on the ground for Eastern Province in the Castle Cup last month but he could not prevent Northern Transvaal totalling 365.

What might a spinner, given the chance, do at Centurion Park? South Africa are so desperately weak in slow bowling that it is not an option which they wish to consider but England should think differently. The last two Castle Cup matches on the ground saw the pitch crumbling towards the end, last week's game being won for Western Province by an inexperienced left-arm wrist-spinner, Michael Atherton, the England captain, was not taken in by Pollock's words and said he was prepared to play two spinners if the conditions warranted it.

Centurion Park will be the first new South African Test venue for nearly 40 years. It has been in existence for less than ten years and is the new home of Northern Transvaal, who had previously played at a ground in Pretoria. It is a pretty tree-lined ground with some seating provided by grassy banks.

It has already staged several one-day internationals under floodlights, with high scoring the norm. Eighteen months ago Adrian Kuiper, the South Africa all-rounder, took 26 runs off the last over of an innings bowled by Craig McDermott. He hit each of the last three balls for six.

Centurion Park's inclusion as a Test match venue has been facilitated by the first five-match Test series in South Africa since 1966-67 and the willingness of the national cricket board to resist the temptation to grant a second match to the more lucrative venue of Johannesburg.

TEST RECORD: Verwoerdburg has not staged a Test match before.

SOUTH AFRICA TOUR 1995-96

ENGLAND v SOUTH AFRICA RECORDS

Tests played 105
England won 47
South Africa won 19
Drawn 39

Test records in South Africa
South Africa won 13
England won 26
Drawn 20

Highest total South Africa 530 (1938-39)
England 554-5 (1938-39)
Lowest total South Africa 30 (1956-57)
England 92 (1956-57)

Most runs in series
H W Taylor 592 (1922-23)
E Paynter 653 (1938-39)

Highest individual score
H W Taylor 178 (1922-23)
E Paynter 243 (1938-39)

Most wickets in series
H J Tayfield 97 (1956-57)
S F Barnes 43 (1913-14)

Best innings bowling
H J Tayfield 2-119 (1956-57)
G A Lohmann 9-28 (1935-36)

Best match bowling
H J Tayfield 13-192 (1956-57)
S F Barnes 17-189 (1913-14)

(South Africa names first)

ENGLAND'S ITINERARY

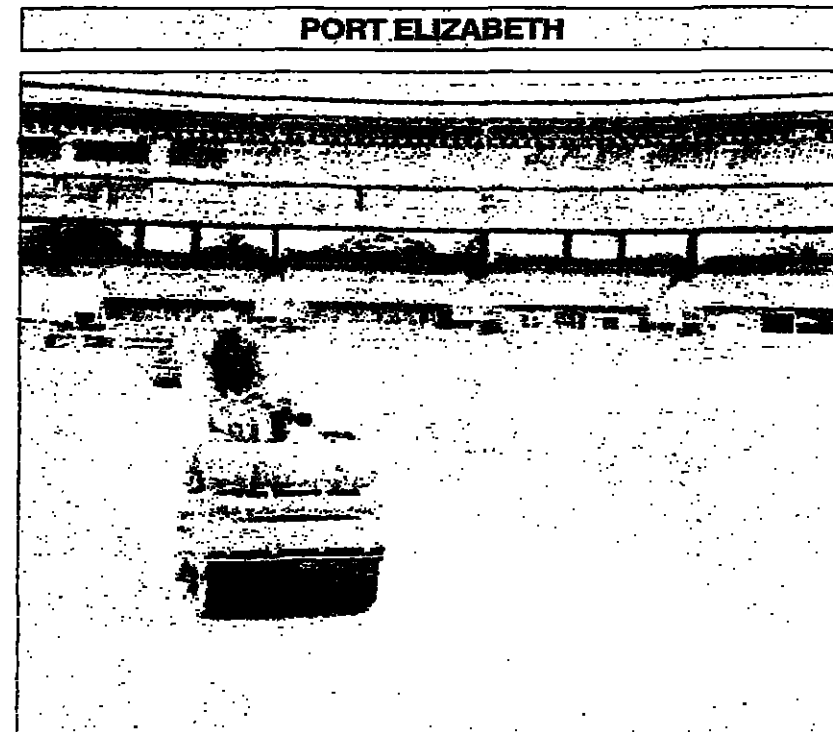
October
Tue 24: beat Oppenheim's XI by 112 runs at Randfontein
Wed 25: beat Eastern Transvaal by 5 wickets at Springs
Fri 27-Mon 30: drew with South Africa Invitation XI at Soweto

November
Thu 2-Sun 5: beat Border by an innings and 53 runs at East London
Thu 9-Sun 12: v South Africa A (1st Test) Kimberley
Thu 16-Mon 20: v South Africa (1st Test) Verwoerdburg
Thu 23-Sun 26: v Orange Free State Bloemfontein
Thu 30-Mon 4 Dec: v South Africa (2nd Test) Johannesburg

December
Thu 7-Sun 10: v Boland Cape Town
Thu 14-Mon 18: v South Africa (3rd Test) Durban
Wed 20-Fri 22: v Combined Universities Pietermaritzburg
Tue 26-Sat 30: v South Africa (4th Test) Port Elizabeth

January
Tue 2-Sat 6: v South Africa (5th Test) Cape Town
Tue 9: v South Africa (one-day) d/n Bloemfontein
Sat 13: v South Africa (one-day) d/n Johannesburg
Sun 14: v South Africa (one-day) d/n Verwoerdburg
Wed 17: v South Africa (one-day) d/n Durban
Fri 19: v South Africa (one-day) d/n East London
Sun 21: v South Africa (one-day) Port Elizabeth

4th domestic day-night match
Graphic: Geoffrey Searns/Tony Gamble



PORT ELIZABETH

St George's Park, December 26-30

Of the five grounds, St George's Park is perhaps the most likely to produce a stalemate. The pitches there tend to become flatter as the game progresses, although they may show signs of uneven and low bounce and both sides might be expected to include at least one spin bowler.

With England holding the advantage in this area of the game, they should be looking to make it tell at Port Elizabeth, although variable bounce can be exploited by the skillful fast bowler as well as the spinner. Three years ago, Allan Donald produced one of the finest performances of his career when he took 12 wickets for 139 runs from 55 lung-busting overs to destroy an invulnerable India side determined to avoid defeat in the series. But for Donald in Port Elizabeth, they might have done so.

The ground lacks the beauty and charm of some of the other grounds in South Africa, a legacy of the fact that one of its original purposes was to stage international rugby matches as well as cricket. Port Elizabeth also suffered severe economic deprivation during the years of isolation but the Eastern Province Cricket Union has done much in recent years to modernise the ground's facilities, with the construction of an electronic scoreboard and improved accommodation for the players.

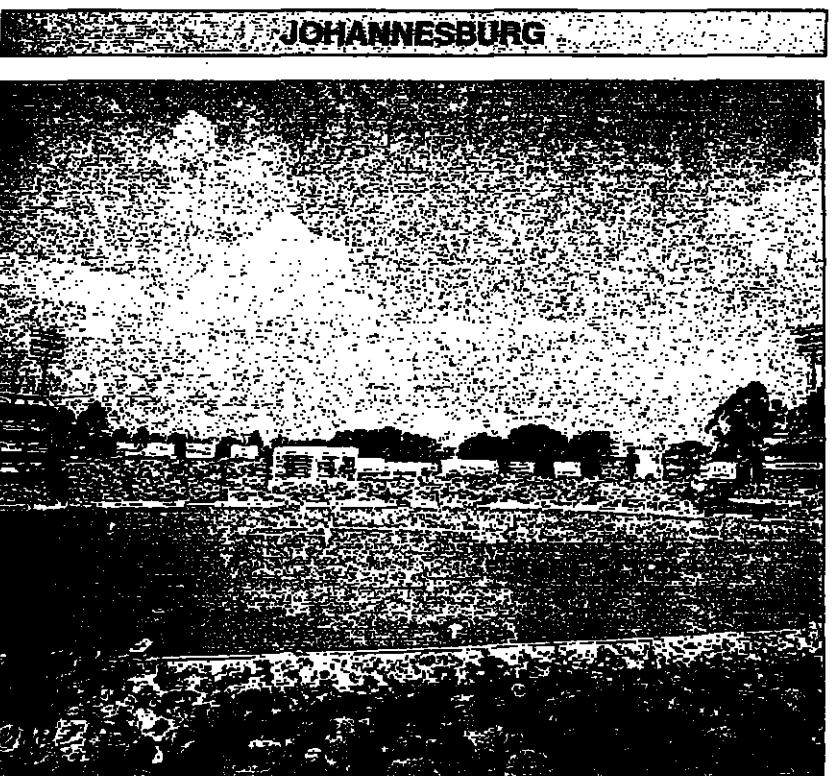
The first Test match England played in the republic took place at Port Elizabeth, as did their most recent. In March 1959, in a match subsequently granted Test match status, an English side led by Aubrey Smith, who later gained fame in Hollywood, saw off their opponents by 3.30pm on the second day. Seventy-six years later, England secured the draw that they needed to win the series under M. J. K. Smith, despite being badly hit by injuries and conceding a first-innings total of 502.

England rarely appeared in Port Elizabeth between times — for many years Durban was afforded two matches in a series to the total exclusion of Port Elizabeth — but when they were usually the occasion for high drama. They once dismissed South Africa for a mere 30 and when St George's Park returned to the rota in 1948-49 they successfully chased a target of 172 in 95 minutes, winning with one minute to spare. Set a similar target, with time to spare, eight years later, England fell foul of Tayfield and finished 58 short, enabling South Africa to draw the series 2-2.

For many years the venue of the final match of a series, Port Elizabeth has recently established itself as the home of the Boxing Day Test match.

ENGLAND v SOUTH AFRICA IN PORT ELIZABETH: Tests: 6. England won 4, South Africa 1, drawn 1. Records (England first): Highest totals: 435 (1964-65), 512 (1964-65). Lowest totals: 110 (1956-57), 30 (1956-57). Highest individual innings: 136 not out F G Mann (1948-49), 137 R G Pollock (1964-65). Best bowling: 8-7 G A Lohmann (1895-96), 6-78 H J Tayfield (1956-57).

TESTS SINCE 1992: v India 1992-93: South Africa won by 9 wickets.



JOHANNESBURG

The Wanderers, November 30-December 4

The pitch at the Wanderers is expected to be no less favourable to the fast bowlers than the one in Verwoerdburg; in recent years, Transvaal and South Africa have thrived on the vertical and lateral movement the ground has offered to the seamers, often to the detriment of their defeated opponents. Such a challenge, though, can bring the best out of batsmen and in a Castle Cup match two years ago Daryl Cullinan scored an unbeaten 337 against an attack containing Fanie de Villiers and Tardus Bosch.

South Africa have two recent Test wins to encourage them: the first, over Australia in March 1994 confirming them as a force to be reckoned with on the world stage. They outplayed their opponents in every department and showed considerable courage along the way. Although they unexpectedly and leebly lost to New Zealand 12 months ago, they were without the injured Allan Donald.

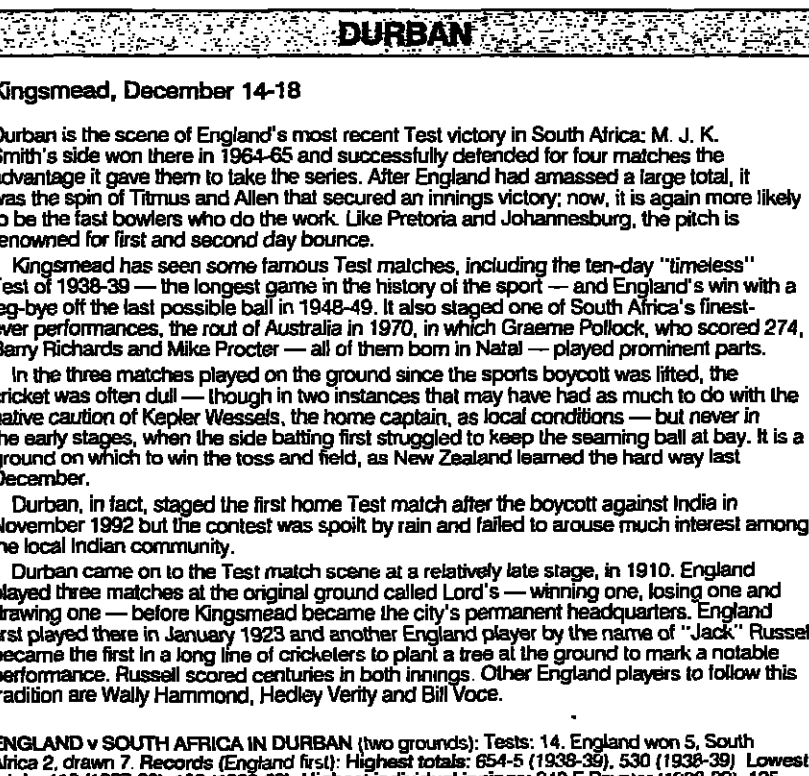
England have played more Test matches in Johannesburg than any other city in South Africa but only four of their previous appearances were at the New Wanderers ground. Between 1896 and 1939 their port of call was the Old Wanderers, which was demolished to make way for the expansion of the central railway station, and in 1948-49, before the new Wanderers stadium was completed, they played two matches at the temporary home of Ellis Park, better known as a venue for rugby union.

England's first Test at the present ground was the opening encounter in the thrilling 1956-57 series and drew a crowd of 100,000. England won comfortably, only to return to lose the fourth match of the series by 17 runs, when victory would have given them the series (it ended a 2-2 draw). On their next and most recent tour in 1984-85, England drew twice at the Wanderers, first when Bland's batting saved South Africa and then when Boycott's performed a similar service for England.

In recent years, the ground has undergone extensive refurbishment and must be one of the world's most complete cricket stadiums.

ENGLAND v SOUTH AFRICA IN JOHANNESBURG (three grounds): Tests: 23. England won 7, South Africa 8, drawn 8. Records (England first): Highest totals: 606 (1948-49), 420 (1922-23). Lowest totals: 145 (1899-90), 72 (1956-57). Highest individual innings: 195 C Washbrook (1948-49), 178 H W Taylor (1922-23). Best bowling: 9-28 G A Lohmann (1895-96), 9-113 H J Tayfield (1956-57).

TESTS SINCE 1992: v India 1992-93: Drawn. v Australia 1993-94: South Africa won by 197 runs. v New Zealand 1994-95: New Zealand won by 137 runs. v Pakistan 1994-95: South Africa won by 324 runs.



DURBAN

Kingsmead, December 14-18

Durban is the scene of England's most recent Test victory in South Africa: M. J. K. Smith's side won there in 1964-65 and successfully defended for four matches the advantage it gave them to take the series. After England had amassed a large total, it was the spin of Titmus and Allen that secured an innings victory; now, it is again more likely to be the fast bowlers who do the work. Like Pretoria and Johannesburg, the pitch is renowned for first and second day bounce.

Kingsmead has seen some famous Test matches, including the ten-day "timeless" Test of 1938-39 — the longest game in the history of the sport — and England's win with a leg-bye off the last possible ball in 1948-49. It also staged one of South Africa's finest-ever performances, the rout of Australia in 1970, in which Graeme Pollock, who scored 274, Barry Richards and Mike Procter — all of them born in Natal — played prominent parts.

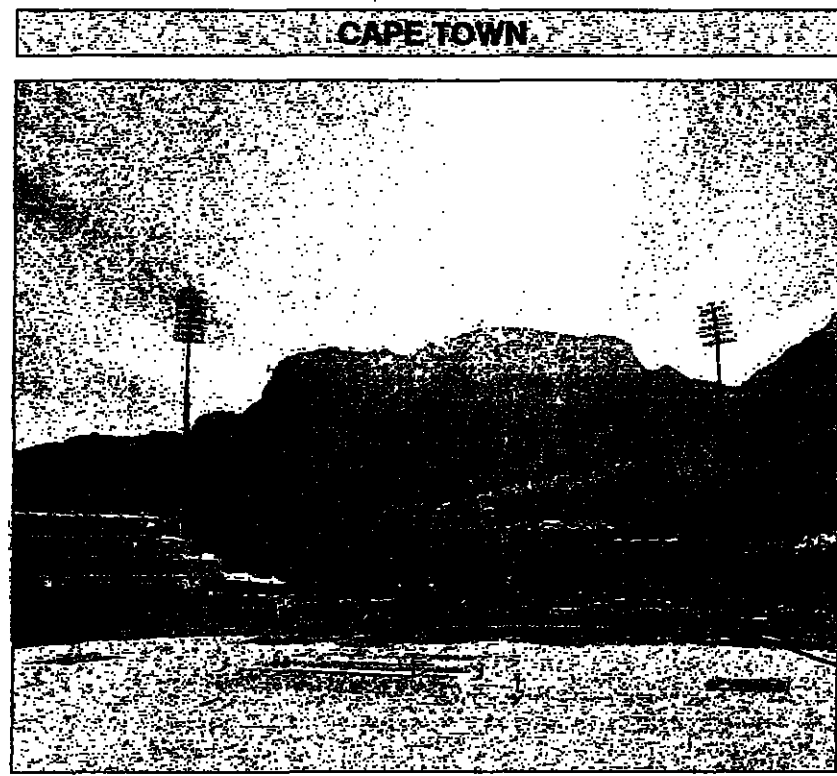
In the three matches played on the ground since the sports boycott was lifted, the cricket was often dull — though in two instances that may have had as much to do with the native caution of Kepler Wessels, the home captain, as local conditions — but never in the early stages, when the side batting first struggled to keep the seaming ball at bay. It is a ground on which to win the toss and field, as New Zealand learned the hard way last December.

Durban, in fact, staged the first home Test match after the boycott against India in November 1992 but the contest was spoilt by rain and failed to arouse much interest among the local Indian community.

Durban came on to the Test match scene at a relatively late stage, in 1910. England played three matches at the original ground called Lord's — winning one, losing one and drawing one — before Kingsmead became the city's permanent headquarters. England first played there in January 1923 and another England player by the name of "Jack" Russell became the first in a long line of cricketers to plant a tree at the ground to mark a notable performance. Russell scored centuries in both innings. Other England players to follow this tradition are Wally Hammond, Hedley Verity and Bill Voce.

ENGLAND v SOUTH AFRICA IN DURBAN (two grounds): Tests: 14. England won 5, South Africa 2, drawn 7. Records (England first): Highest totals: 654-5 (1938-39), 530 (1938-39). Lowest totals: 118 (1927-28), 103 (1938-39). Highest individual innings: 243 E Paynter (1938-39), 125 P G V van der Bijl (1938-39). Best bowling: 7-56 S F Barnes (1913-14), 8-69 H J Tayfield (1956-57).

TESTS SINCE 1992: v India 1992-93: Drawn. v Australia 1993-94: Drawn. v New Zealand 1994-95: South Africa won by 8 wickets.



CAPE TOWN

Newlands, January 2-6

Newlands can lay strong claim to the title of the most beautiful international cricket venue in the world. Whatever structural changes are made to the ground — and there have been a few in recent years, including the construction of floodlight pylons — the view for the spectator will always be dominated by Table Mountain and the great Oak trees that were planted around the ground from the 1890s. To add to the spectator's delight and convenience, for over 70 years the Cape Town Test match has usually been staged — as it will be on this tour — over the first few days of the new year, an ideal holiday period.

The ground, on which the square was recently relaid, is also something of a paradise for batsmen, certainly in the early stages. By the fourth and fifth days there may be encouragement for the spinners and sides winning the toss have tended to bat first. That policy was adopted in each of the three Tests played at Cape Town since 1992, although on two occasions the side batting first lost. Even so, when Australia won 18 months ago it was a slow bowler who inflicted much of the damage, Shane Warne — playing a bigger part than at any other time in the series — returning match figures of six for 116 from 77 overs.

The second most striking feature about Newlands, after its appearance, is South Africa's atrocious record on the ground, which must be one of the worst of any side at a home venue. Of 27 Tests, they have lost 17 and won only four, including the last they played there, against New Zealand ten months ago. Australia have won seven times in eight visits and England, with nine successes out of 15, have not been beaten since 1909-10. Their only two defeats were both in the days of matting pitches. It is through every visiting team — all but one of whom played a Test in Cape Town — was inspired by the setting to raising their game, just as touring sides so often do when they play at Lord's.

ENGLAND v SOUTH AFRICA IN CAPE TOWN: Tests: 15. England won 9, South Africa 2, drawn 4. Records (England first): Highest totals: 559-9d (1938-39), 513-8d (1930-31). Lowest totals: 92 (1898-99), 35 (1898-99). Highest individual innings: 187 J B Hobbs (1900-10), 154 A J Pithey (1964-65). Best bowling: 8-11 J Briggs (1888-89), 7-63 A E Hall (1922-23).

TESTS SINCE 1992: v India 1992-93: Drawn. v Australia 1993-94: Australia won by 9 wickets. v New Zealand 1994-95: South Africa won by 7 wickets.

Compiled by Simon Wilde

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NO TURNING BACK

A step on the road to South African supremacy



Rhodes is one of several resourceful cricketers to emerge since South Africa's return to the international arena

THIS may be, in some ways, just another tour for England's overburdened cricketers, but for South Africa the next two months will be a crucial test of their own very high expectations. Social and political upheavals in South Africa have not diminished the nation's appetite for sports of all kinds, and many will not be satisfied unless the country proves itself to be the world's best. In this respect, victory in the rugby World Cup final in June has served only to legitimise these immense ambitions.

Some South Africans will not be satisfied unless their national cricket team beats England 5-0 and goes on to lift the World Cup in Lahore in March. Not all hail from the terraces. At a luncheon given in his honour in London in July 1994, Ali Bacher, the chief executive of the United Cricket Board of South Africa, stated calmly, and without arrogance, his belief that "South Africa will ultimately dominate world cricket, of that I have no doubt".

He may well be right, and his dream may have become reality by the end of the century. Part of Bacher's reasoning is the previously untapped resources that are only

now being brought onto line from the townships, which Bacher estimates will provide one million players, followers and spectators — and their first Test cricketer — by 2000. Before, South Africa have entered the field drawing on only a fraction of the population.

South Africa are already well on their way to achieving international supremacy. Many critics cautioned that it would take them time to adjust to the mental and physical rigours of top-flight sport when the sports boycott was lifted — and they were right.

South Africa's cricketers squandered some glorious opportunities in the past four years: with greater resolution they would, perhaps, have pulled off an astonishing victory over West Indies — then the undisputed "world champions" — at Bridgetown in April 1992, in their first match back, and they might have held onto the leads they established in three successive series in 1994 — two against Australia and one against England.

South Africa's return could hardly be classified a failure, however: indeed, since losing that one-off encounter with West Indies, they have not lost any of their nine subsequent Test series. In the meantime, also, Australia have ended West Indies' long unbeaten run and thrown open the "world title".

What South Africa now have to do is play and beat England, Australia and West Indies, all of whom they are scheduled to meet in the next three years. It will not be a simple task but it is a long-term plan that Bacher and Bob Woolmer, the national coach, are already preparing for.

There is a rare purpose about South Africa's cricket and a rare quality to the men who play for them. Several of the team are deeply religious individuals, including the captain, Hansie Cronje, who feel that they have a mission not only to win but also to help the game prosper among the wider South African community. This is partly why the selectors have stuck by the inspirational and selfless figure of Jonty Rhodes, whose form in Test cricket alone scarcely warrants his retention.

England's own playing record during the past four years pales by comparison. So does their "strategy" for the future. Apart from the likely departure of Raymond Illingworth some time next year, they do not seem to have one.

TEST FORM SINCE APRIL 1992

| South Africa | Series | P | W | L | D | England | Series | P | W | L | D |
|-----------------------|--------|-----------|-----------|----------|----------|-----------------------|--------|-----------|----------|-----------|-----------|
| v West Indies 1991-92 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | v Pakistan 1992 | 5 | 1 | 2 | 2 | |
| v India 1992-93 | 4 | 1 | 0 | 3 | 0 | v India 1992-93 | 3 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 0 |
| v Sri Lanka 1993-94 | 3 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 0 | v Sri Lanka 1992-93 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| v Australia 1993-94 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | v Australia 1993 | 6 | 1 | 4 | 1 | |
| v Australia 1993-94 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | v West Indies 1993-94 | 5 | 1 | 3 | 1 | |
| v England 1994 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | v New Zealand 1994 | 3 | 1 | 0 | 2 | |
| v New Zealand 1994-95 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 0 | v South Africa 1994 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 1 | |
| v Pakistan 1994-95 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | v Australia 1994-95 | 5 | 1 | 3 | 1 | |
| v New Zealand 1994-95 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | v West Indies 1995 | 6 | 2 | 2 | 2 | |
| v Zimbabwe 1995-96 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | | | | | | |
| TOTAL | | 23 | 10 | 5 | 8 | TOTAL | | 37 | 8 | 19 | 10 |

ENGLAND v SOUTH AFRICA IN TESTS

| Date | Venue | Tests | England won | S Africa won | Drawn |
|--------------------|-------|------------|-------------|--------------|-----------|
| 1888-89 | SA | 2 | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| 1891-92 | SA | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| 1893-96 | SA | 3 | 3 | 0 | 0 |
| 1898-99 | SA | 2 | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| 1905-06 | SA | 5 | 1 | 4 | 0 |
| 1907 | E | 3 | 1 | 0 | 2 |
| 1909-10 | SA | 5 | 2 | 3 | 0 |
| 1912 | E | 3 | 3 | 0 | 0 |
| 1913-14 | SA | 5 | 4 | 0 | 1 |
| 1922-23 | SA | 5 | 2 | 1 | 2 |
| 1924 | E | 5 | 3 | 0 | 2 |
| 1927-28 | SA | 5 | 2 | 2 | 1 |
| 1929 | E | 5 | 2 | 0 | 3 |
| 1930-31 | SA | 5 | 0 | 1 | 4 |
| 1935 | E | 5 | 0 | 1 | 4 |
| 1938-39 | SA | 5 | 1 | 0 | 4 |
| 1947 | E | 5 | 3 | 0 | 2 |
| 1948-49 | SA | 5 | 2 | 0 | 3 |
| 1951 | E | 5 | 3 | 1 | 1 |
| 1955 | E | 5 | 3 | 2 | 0 |
| 1956-57 | SA | 5 | 2 | 2 | 1 |
| 1960 | E | 5 | 3 | 0 | 2 |
| 1964-65 | SA | 5 | 1 | 0 | 4 |
| 1965 | E | 3 | 0 | 1 | 2 |
| 1994 | E | 3 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| In S Africa | | 58 | 25 | 13 | 20 |
| In England | | 47 | 22 | 6 | 19 |
| TOTAL | | 105 | 47 | 19 | 39 |

Thirty-six of the 38 matches in South Africa between 1888-89 and 1930-31 were played on matting rather than turf. Of these, England won 18, South Africa 11 and six were drawn. South Africa first beat England on turf at Lord's in 1935 and on home turf at the New Wanderers, Johannesburg, in February 1957.

TEST CAREER AVERAGES

England

| Batting | M | I | NO | Runs | HS | Avg | 100 | 50 | CTs |
|-----------------|----|-----|----|------|-----|-------|-----|----|-----|
| M A Atherton | 51 | 96 | 1 | 3812 | 151 | 40.12 | 8 | 25 | 37 |
| D G Cork | 5 | 8 | 1 | 197 | 56 | 28.14 | — | 1 | 1 |
| J P Crawley | 9 | 16 | 1 | 330 | 72 | 22.00 | — | 3 | 9 |
| A R C Fraser | 29 | 42 | 6 | 255 | 29 | 7.50 | — | — | 6 |
| D Gough | 10 | 16 | 3 | 317 | 65 | 24.38 | — | 2 | 6 |
| G A Hick | 37 | 66 | 4 | 2336 | 178 | 37.67 | 3 | 14 | 55 |
| R K Illingworth | 6 | 12 | 7 | 100 | 17 | 20.00 | — | — | 3 |
| M C Illott | 3 | 5 | 1 | 28 | 15 | 7.00 | — | — | — |
| D E Malcolm | 34 | 50 | 16 | 223 | 29 | 8.55 | — | — | 5 |
| P J Martin | 3 | 6 | 0 | 52 | 29 | 8.68 | — | — | 4 |
| M R Rampersad | 17 | 30 | 1 | 1454 | 128 | 28.50 | 1 | 5 | 99 |
| R C Russell | 39 | 63 | 12 | 1454 | 128 | 28.50 | 1 | 2 | 12 |
| R A Smith | 57 | 105 | 15 | 3982 | 175 | 44.24 | 9 | 26 | 36 |
| A J Stewart | 48 | 87 | 6 | 3158 | 190 | 39.11 | 7 | 15 | 64 |
| G P Thorpe | 21 | 41 | 3 | 1658 | 123 | 43.63 | 2 | 14 | 21 |
| M Watkinson | 3 | 4 | 1 | 156 | 82 | 52.00 | — | 1 | 1 |

Bowling

| | O | M | R | W | Avg | Best | 5w | 10w |
|-----------------|------|-----|------|------|--------|-------|------|-----|
| M A Atherton | 61 | 11 | 282 | 1 | 282.00 | 1-60 | — | — |
| D G Cork | 184 | 2 | 30 | 661 | 26 | 25.42 | 7-43 | 1 |
| A R C Fraser | 1261 | 5 | 302 | 3222 | 115 | 28.88 | 6-75 | 8 |
| D Gough | 393 | 1 | 67 | 1246 | 43 | 28.97 | 6-49 | 1 |
| G A Hick | 4175 | 114 | 1037 | 20 | 51.85 | 4-126 | — | — |
| R K Illingworth | 156 | 4 | 50 | 428 | 10 | 42.80 | 4-96 | — |
| M C Illott | 129 | 28 | 412 | 8 | 51.50 | 3-106 | — | — |
| D E Malcolm | 1263 | 221 | 4246 | 116 | 36.60 | 9-57 | 5 | 2 |
| P J Martin | 84 | 21 | 241 | 5 | 48.20 | 3-65 | — | — |
| M R Rampersad | 40 | 1 | 130 | 0 | — | — | — | — |
| R A Smith | 5 | 2 | 6 | 0 | — | — | — | — |
| A J Stewart | 32 | 0 | 13 | 0 | — | — | — | — |
| G P Thorpe | 8 | 2 | 15 | 0 | — | — | — | — |
| M Watkinson | 93 | 21 | 289 | 8 | 36.12 | 3-64 | — | — |

South Africa

| Batting | M | I | NO | Runs | HS | Avg | 100 | 50 | CTs |
|----------------|----|----|----|------|-----|-------|-----|----|-----|
| W J Cronje | 22 | 40 | 5 | 1403 | 135 | 40.08 | 5 | 4 | 10 |
| D J Cullinan | 14 | 25 | 2 | 788 | 102 | 34.76 | 1 | 5 | 8 |
| C E Eksteen | 20 | 26 | 14 | 165 | 33 | 13.75 | — | — | 6 |
| C E Eksteen | 5 | 8 | 2 | 72 | 22 | 12.00 | — | — | 3 |
| A C Hudson | 20 | 37 | 1 | 1350 | 163 | 36.66 | 3 | 10 | 17 |
| G Kirsten | 15 | 28 | 1 | 962 | 76 | 20.50 | — | 7 | 16 |
| C R Matthews | 15 | 22 | 6 | 329 | 62 | 20.50 | — | — | 1 |
| B M McMillan | 18 | 29 | 5 | 1002 | 112 | 41.75 | 1 | 7 | 23 |
| J N Rhodes | 22 | 37 | 5 | 1056 | 101 | 33.06 | 1 | 6 | 11 |
| D J Richardson | 23 | 35 | 3 | 838 | 109 | 26.18 | 1 | 5 | 98 |
| B N Schultz | 6 | 6 | 2 | 6 | 6 | 1.50 | — | — | — |

| Bowling | O | M | R | W | Avg | Best | 5w | 10w |
|--------------|-----|----|-----|------|-------|-------|------|-----|
| W J Cronje | 257 | 1 | 96 | 496 | 8 | 62.00 | 3-17 | — |
| A A Donald | 789 | 4 | 181 | 2339 | 9 | 24.62 | 8-71 | 5 |
| C E Eksteen | 190 | 69 | 359 | 5 | 71.80 | 2-34 | — | — |
| G Kirsten | 48 | 1 | 13 | 133 | 2 | 66.50 | 1-0 | — |
| C R Matthews | 582 | 2 | 196 | 1337 | 46 | 27.85 | 5-42 | 2 |
| B M McMillan | 595 | 2 | 153 | 1542 | 52 | 29.65 | 4-65 | — |
| J N Rhodes | 2 | 1 | 5 | 0 | — | — | — | — |
| B N Schultz | 220 | 5 | 65 | 553 | 29 | 19.06 | 5-48 | 2 |

S M Pollock has not played Test cricket

Source: TCCS/PA Cricket Record

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Head-butt claim angers Schofield

Fallon's flourish leaves Salford chasing shadows

Leeds 46
Salford 22

By CHRISTOPHER IRVINE

THERE are days on the wing when everything comes your way. Jim Fallon had been struggling; just five tries in 11 games. But yesterday he came close to doubling that strike-rate as Leeds romped through their second-round tie at Headingley in rugby league's Regal Trophy.

In the end, Fallon had to settle for four tries, all scored in a ludicrously easy 13-minute spell in the first half. His fingertips came within inches of touching down a fifth but, as with much of Leeds's performance after the initial softening up process, the crucial precision was absent.

Salford recovered their senses, after the crushing sen-

sation of going 28-0 down in 25 minutes, to "win" the remainder of the tie, in spite of the result being irretrievably beyond their grasp.

For the first 25 minutes, when Fallon was in full flight, it was all the first division side could do to pinch the ball off rampant championship opponents, before the gulf between top and second flights narrowed afterwards.

It was an encounter with sometimes too much needle. Lowes and Eccles were stymied for slugging it out and Andy Gregory was aghast that Schofield was not sent off for an apparent head-butt on Lee. "There's a player from Everton doing three months in jail for head-butting," the Salford coach said.

Fata Sini, the Western Samoan who tormented England in the rugby union World Cup, was on the receiving end

of only his second league outing for Salford. Fallon contemptuously side-stepped and rounded him for the first try from a scrum awarded as a result of a bad knock-on by McAvoy.

When Shaw, the diminutive hooker, surged through the middle, the Salford cover was blown again. Lowes kept up the momentum, Tait burst into the line from full back and Iro held off Edwards in a surge to the corner.

Sini was nowhere to be seen as Fallon got on the end of a subsequent nine-man move. The Samoan was in the vicinity the next time, but both he and Lee were beaten by Fallon's hat-trick. Sini was mercifully withdrawn by the time Fallon, unmarked and again extremely dangerous, merely had to walk in his fourth try.

The Salford tackling was equally as inept on the left, which Innes exploited in a 60-metre scoring run. Forster's try, the result of the visitors' first worthwhile attack, appeared merely to be an irritation.

At the start of the second half, however, Blakeley fed Martin for the score and then Fallon and Kemp both missed Lee's speculative cross-field kick, which Blakeley gratefully pounced upon.

The siege by Salford was lifted by a 75-metre breakout by Cummins and Leeds were somewhat relieved to see Schofield break through. Then a short pass by Schofield was met at pace by Tait en route to the line. Hampson grabbed a further consolation for Salford, before their defence was again beaten by Schofield hacking on and diving for the bobbling ball.

Gregory said: "The game was virtually over by half-time. We got back into the game and the lad who I didn't think should have been on the field [Schofield] has killed us off good and proper."

Schofield denied the accusation. "Through a game, how many head-butts go in when the tackle's there, how many elbows go in and how many knees go in?" he said. "If they are just talking about one really minor incident like that, then I think the game's in a bit of a sorry state."

SCORERS: Leeds: Tries: Fallon (4), Schofield (2), Iro, Innes, Tait. Goals: Cook (3). Salford: Tries: Forster, Martin, Blakeley, Hampson, Eccles, Blakeley (2). LEEDS: A Tait, J Fallon, K Iro, C Innes, P Cook, T Kemp, G Schofield, N Hampson (sub: H Howard, M Shaw, N Fozzard, J Lowes (sub: F Cummins, 49), G Mann (sub: Lowes, 69), M Forshaw. SALFORD: S Hampson, N McAvoy, S Taylor, S Martin, F Sini (sub: D Myers, 21), S Blakeley, M Lee, D Young (sub: J Savelle, 37), P Edwards, C Eccles, P Forster, R Webster (sub: Sini, 61), S Penney. Referee: S Cummings.

Kavanagh sees off Castleford

By OUR SPORTS STAFF

MIKE KAVANAGH landed a dropped goal in the 72nd minute as Carlisle, of the second division, sent Castleford, of the Stones Championship, out of rugby league's Regal Trophy 19-18 at Gillford Park, Castleford, winners of the competition in 1994, appeared to be heading for victory when they led 18-10 at the break. But Richardson, with two goals and Rhodes with a try, levelled the scores at 18-18 before Kavanagh, the scrum half, struck.

Tries from Nikau, Smith and Flowers had put Castleford in the driving seat at half-time. Ruddy and Williams, the substitute, went over for the Cumbrians.

Oldham, struggling in the championship, also went out, although their 32-8 defeat at Widnes, the first division title chasers, was less of a surprise. Oldham's cause was not helped by the 27th-minute dismissal of Farr, the prop, for a high tackle on Platt, the England forward. Devereux and McCurrie took two tries each, and the accurate Tyrer sealed six goals.

London Broncos re-wrote their record book with their 82-0 victory over the League's bottom side, Highfield, at Barnet. It was the Broncos' biggest win, beating the 66-12 they achieved against Keighley last year. And Vincent

equalled the club record of four tries in a game before limping off with a knee injury.

The wings, Offiah and Robinson, were in fine form for Wigan, the holders, as they overpowered Whitehaven 68-26. Offiah, who had a disappointing World Cup campaign, crossed the line five times and Robinson scored a hat-trick. Injury-hit Halifax, however, just managed enough against Swinton to book their passage into round three. Schuster, playing at stand-off for the first time in his career, scored a try and four goals in a 20-18 victory.

Warrington overwhelmed Chorley of the second division, 68-10 in a one-sided tie at Victoria Park — with 10 players securing touchdowns. Davies, Eckersley, and Shefford went over for two each, while Ford, a new signing, crossed the line on his full debut.

A late try and five goals from Ellis helped Bradford to a 22-0 victory over Sheffield at Odsal, but it was a far from convincing display and an injury-time goal from Pearce gave Huddersfield a 22-21 success over Featherstone. The home side were trailing 21-6 when Kobbie, went over in the corner and Pearce landed the goal to put Huddersfield through. Calland, of Featherstone, and Toole, of Huddersfield, were sent off.



Kathryn Burgess, of North West Under-18s, passes to Hannah McLean in their win over England Under-16s. Photograph: Barry Greenwood

Manchester instil success from the start

By JOHN GOODBODY

TRADITION is a powerful reason for excellence: success breeds success goes the saying and this is as true in schools as in adult sport. When Kath Edwards, the Greater Manchester netball coach, welcomes her teams at the start of the season in September, she tells them that there is an expectation of success. "You are members of the most elite county squad in England."

On Saturday, the England senior team, including Manchester's Joanne Hall, defeated the Cook Islands 51-48 to take their three-match series 2-1 at the Manchester Velodrome. But before this international

fixture there was a game between the North West Under-18 and the England Under-16 teams.

This was a fixture for prospective players for future world championships and Commonwealth Games. The North West won 43-39. Four of this ten-strong North West squad play for England at under-18 level and five of the England Under-16 group are from Greater Manchester.

Kathryn Burgess, the goal shooter for the England Under-18 team remembers her first year at Altrincham Grammar School and looking up to Kathryn Oldfield, a member of the international under-16 side: "She acted as a role



model. My attitude was that if Kathryn could achieve representative honours then I could do so as well," Kathryn said. As goal shooter, Kathryn has a burden of particular responsibility. She has adopted the

Australian technique of shooting from a wide base with her feet parallel. "A defender is allowed to be three feet away from your front foot and if you put one foot in front of the other, there is a greater chance of the shot being obstructed," she said. "I aim for a high projectory, more like a basketball set shot. I aim to push the ball right through the body from my toes to my fingers."

In her position, she has to possess spatial awareness and confidence for the shooting. Goal shooter used to be a more static position than is now becoming commonplace. Again, this is the technical influence from the southern hemisphere. English teams

used to consist of just six mobile players until the final pass went to the goal shooter. Now, says Kathryn, a goal shooter seeks to catch unexpectedly into the circle.

In shooting she aims for an imaginary spot above the ring to allow the ball to drop down and "swish" through the net. Edwards points out that youngsters usually find sports such as hockey and football easier for shooting because there is a precise target at which to aim.

Psychology has been introduced to the English squads and Kathryn has benefited. "We are taught to imagine ourselves scoring goals." Practise is important — she frequently trains twice a day — but so is concentration. "The belief in netball is that once you get your eye in by scoring then you can get all the shots in."

Karen Aspinall, from St John Rigby VI College, in Greater Manchester, has just been made captain of the England Under-18 squad. "I don't know why I have been made captain. Actually I'm quite shy," she said. Her mother, Susan, took a job to help to finance her training for the sport.

It is this parental support which is so important for a prospective international in any sport. Louise Crolla, 15, from St Gabriel's, in Bury, is in the England Under-16 group and says: "My mother used to play, so I started on a netball court almost before I could walk."

Manchester has certainly benefited from having age group competitions in every year from 11 upwards. This gives a continuity for teams. There is also a strong linking of schools and clubs.

Hulme survive in penalty shoot-out

Another Wolverhampton team fails to live up to expectations, watched by John Goodbody

Wolverhampton Grammar School could well have thought that this was their season to win the Boodle & Dunthorne Independent Schools Cup, now in its fourth season. They had seven of the players who had reached the semi-finals last season and had gained confidence from winning the Independent Schools six-a-side tournament.

However, last Saturday on a morning of persistent rain and unremitting excitement, Hulme Grammar School, of Oldham, defeated them 5-1 on penalties to reach the quarter-finals after the teams had finished 1-1 after extra time.

Andrew Marshall, the master in charge of the Hulme side said: "That was a game that, for my heart, I could well have done without. To be honest, I felt Wolverhampton had a bit more of the play and

had slightly more chances." John Johnson, the Wolverhampton coach, said his players could not have tried any harder. "Some of them joked that they would fail their A levels next summer so that they could have another go. But they have learnt that defeats like this are part of life."

Wolverhampton scored first through Marvin Robinson in the 58th minute with Paul Hewitt equalising 13 minutes later. In the shoot-out, Hewitt, Andy Tomkinson, David Fish, Greg Schofield and David Hodgkin converted kicks for Hulme with Jake Sedgemore, Philip Hendon, Robinson and Nick Wolridge replying. In the quarter-finals,

Hulme travel to Brentwood who defeated Westminster 1-0. St Bede's, the holders from Manchester, were eliminated 2-1 by Bury Grammar School. Alex Lawton gave Bury a first-half lead and Barry O'Driscoll equalised for St Bede's. The winner came from a goalmouth scramble ten minutes from time.

Bury hope to have their leading scorer, Ian Hyde, back for their quarter-final match at Ardingley, beaten finalists for the past two years. Hyde, who has represented North of England Schools at rugby union, is recovering from a broken foot.

Manchester Grammar School beat Bolton Grammar School 2-1 after extra time. Ben Twemlow opened the

scoring for Manchester after an hour but Bolton, who are coached by Paul Mariner, the former Ipswich and England forward, equalised with eight minutes remaining. Both teams fielded 15-year-old goalkeepers — Richard Sellers, for Bolton, and Jonathan Lee for Manchester. They produced a number of outstanding saves before Richard Seddon side-footed home the winner two minutes from the end.

Manchester are now at home to Queen Elizabeth Grammar School, Blackburn, who defeated Winchester 8-2, while Lancing play Laymer Upper in the last of the quarter-finals. Lancing defeated Chigwell 4-1, scoring four goals in the last 18 minutes, and Laymer Upper defeated Kimbolton 4-0.

QUARTER-FINAL DRAW: Ardingley v Bury GS; Lancing v Laymer Upper; Blackburn v Hulme GS; Manchester GS v Queen Elizabeth GS; Blackburn, Ties to be completed by Saturday, December 9



See England play South Africa

The Times, in association with Save & Prosper, is offering readers the chance to see one of the first big internationals in the professional era as England take on South Africa, the reigning world champions, at Twickenham this Saturday, November 18.

We're giving away a pair of tickets which includes full hospitality before and after the match for you and a companion. We've also got 30 runners-up prizes of a copy of the Save & Prosper Rugby Union Who's Who 1995/96, the fascinating compendium of players' views on the game, published by Collins Willow at £9.99.

For your chance to win simply call 0891 334 302 before midnight tomorrow, Tuesday November 14, with your answers to the two questions right. Leave your name, address and a daytime telephone number where you can be contacted. The winners will be the

first correct answers selected at random from all entries received by the closing date. Normal Times Newspapers competition rules apply. Calls cost 39p per minute cheap rate and 49p per minute at all other times. The winner of the match tickets will be contacted on Wednesday and full arrangements made for your day out at the match.

THE QUESTIONS
1. Which England player scored 27 points when they beat South Africa in Pretoria last year?
2. Which player captained South Africa on their last visit to Twickenham in 1992?

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Save & Prosper, a major player in the provision of personal finance and investment services, has been sponsoring English rugby for more than ten years.



Reading's run finally hits buffers

READING'S sequence of five victories in hockey's National League came to an end at home yesterday when they were held by Guildford to a 2-2 draw (Sydney Friskin writes). Six minutes before the end of this test of skill and fitness, Matton scored on the rebound from a short corner, to deprive Reading.

Goalkeepers distinguished themselves. Mason displayed fine skills for Reading in the first half when Guildford, seeking to build on their early lead, were looking more creative. Priddy rescued Guildford with saves off Osborn and Wyatt from short corners when Reading were battling to equalise.

Ian Jennings set the match alight with a goal for Guildford in the second minute from a short corner but two quick replies early in the second half, by Wyatt from a short corner and Ashdown from Pearn's cross pass, put Reading 2-1 ahead.

On a par with Reading at the top of the first division are Old Thatchians who defeated Teddington, the titleholders, 6-2 at Teddington School. Cannock recorded a 4-0 win at home over Canterbury, and are now only a point behind the leaders.

Southgate kept in touch with a 4-2 home win over Indian Gymkhana, and Surbiton enhanced their chances by defeating East Grinstead 3-2. Tinkler scoring the winner nine minutes before the end.

Result, page 39

Ipswich are made to pay by Souyave

THE majority of players in the women's national hockey league must be wondering when Maggie Souyave is going to retire and stop tormenting them (Alix Ramsay writes). At the age of 42 she shows no sign of slowing down, juggling her jobs as England coach, Hightown player and Hightown coach, and all the while knocking in the goals when they matter.

Another goal on Saturday took her tally to three in two matches and helped Hightown to victory at Ipswich, a win that took the Liverpool club to the top of the premier division.

Ipswich came out with all guns blazing in the first half but could not convert their chances, a familiar failing.

Having weathered the storm, Souyave imparted a little wisdom at half-time and suddenly it was Hightown who were on top. Tina Cullen broke the deadlock after 57 minutes, following up from a penalty corner and, ten minutes later, Souyave made the game safe, knocking in a cross from the right.

With Clifton and Sutton Coldfield sharing the points in a rainswept 0-0 draw, Hightown are now one point clear of Sutton at the top, with Slough moving into third place after their less than convincing 2-1 win over the bottom club, Bracknell. Amanda Potlow and Helen Thormley scored either side of half-time for Slough, with Ali Baker pulling a late goal back for Bracknell.

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Power to prosecute for foreign transactions

Regina v Smith (Wallace Duncan)

Before Lord Justice Rose, Mr Justice Jowitt and Mr Justice Moore-Bick

[Judgment November 3]

The meaning of the word "creditors" in section 458 of the Companies Act 1985 included persons to whom money would be owed at a future date whether the debt could presently be sued for or was immaterial.

The English courts had jurisdiction to try an offence of dishonestly obtaining property by deception contrary to section 15 of the Theft Act 1968 where, as a result of deceptions practised by the defendant within the jurisdiction, funds were transferred from one bank account based abroad to another also based abroad but operated by the defendant in and from England.

Although a confiscation order under section 71 of the Criminal Justice Act 1988 could not be made against a defendant in relation to assets which he no longer had, it was open to the judge to make an order against him in relation to a disposal by way of gift even though the donee, at the time the gift was made, had disposed of the gift.

The Court of Appeal, Criminal Division, so held in a reserved judgment dismissing an appeal by Wallace Duncan Smith against his conviction in February 1994 at the Central Criminal Court (Mr Justice Tuckey and a jury) of one offence of obtaining property by deception for which he was sentenced on each of six years imprisonment concurrent. A confiscation order in the sum of £49,000 with 12 months consecutive imprisonment in default of payment, was made under section 71 of the Criminal Justice Act 1988 and the appellant was disqualified for 12 years under section 2 of the Company Directors Disqualification Act 1986.

Section 458 of the Companies Act 1985 provides: "If any business of a company is carried on with intent to defraud creditors of the company or creditors of any other person, or for any fraudulent purpose, every person who was knowingly a party to the carrying on of the business in that manner is liable to imprisonment or a fine or both."

Section 74 of the Criminal Justice Act 1988 provides: "...the amount that might be realised at the time a confiscation order is made is—(a) the total of the values

at that time of all the realisable property held by the defendant, less (b) where there are obligations having priority at that time, the total amounts payable in pursuance of such obligations, together with the total of the values at that time of all gifts caught by this Part of this Act."

Mr William Clegg, QC and Mr Simon Stafford-Michael, assigned by the Registrar of Criminal Appeals, for the appellant; Mr Timothy Burnes, QC, Mr Stuart Lawson-Rogers, QC, and Miss Susan Reed for the Crown.

LORD JUSTICE ROSE, giving the judgment of the court, said that the appellant, a Canadian national aged 40, was employed as a chairman and managing director of a merchant bank, Wallace Smith Trust Company (WSTC).

WSTC ceased trading and a provisional liquidator was appointed under the petition of the Bank of England on April 30, 1991. It was wound up later in the year owing its unsecured creditors about £92 million.

The first count on the indictment alleged fraudulent trading between May 1, 1990 and April 9, 1991. On or about that date, inter alia, the judge found that the appellant had failed adequately to direct the jury as to the meaning of creditors.

Mr Clegg submitted that "creditors" in section 458 of the 1985 Act was limited to those customers who were entitled to immediate repayment and did not extend to potential or contingent creditors having an existing right to payment at some future date. Much of WSTC's borrowing could not be immediately called in and such lenders were not creditors within the section.

In their Lordships' judgment an offence under section 458 was a continuing one and if trading was carried on fraudulently, future as well as present creditors might be prejudiced. The word "creditor" in section 458, in its ordinary meaning, denoted one to whom money was owed; whether that debt could presently be sued for was immaterial.

That was sufficient to decide the present case but their Lordships saw no reason in principle why other kinds of potential creditors should not be within the scope of section 458 because such creditors might come into existence after the fraudulent trading had first begun.

Such a construction was consonant with the purpose of the first part of the section which was aimed at preventing insolvent

trading to the prejudice of those who were induced to do business. It followed that there was no misdirection as to "creditors" and accordingly there was no substance in that ground of appeal.

As to the offences of obtaining property by deception, Mr Clegg asserted that although (a) of the Criminal Justice Act 1993 would now confer jurisdiction in such a case, the present offences were committed before that Act came into force, and the jurisdiction therefore depended on common law. There was a want of jurisdiction in the court because the offences were committed in New York.

Mr Clegg submitted that the essence of an offence of obtaining property by deception was the obtaining of the property by means of a deception. In the present case the deception was made in London where the relevant purchase agreement contract was made on the telephone in relation to securities allegedly held in Canada.

Payment was made by a transfer of funds from a private bank into WSTC's New York bank. Therefore the obtaining was in New York. Mr Clegg relied on what he accepted was an obiter dictum of Viscount Dilhorne in *DPP v Stonehouse* [1978] AC 55, 74.

It was to be noted that the only feature of the circumstances which occurred outside England was the transfer of funds to WSTC's New York account.

The appellant and those people in the account bank to whom he made the representation were all in London; it was in London that the telephone call was made, all the relevant documentation, save for the actual crediting of the New York bank account came into existence in London, and it was in and from London that the appellant and WSTC conducted their business.

In their Lordships' judgment it would be astonishing if the English courts did not have jurisdiction in such a case and certainly there would be nothing inimical to international comity in the English courts assuming jurisdiction.

Questions of jurisdiction, although involving substantive law, contained a strong procedural element. There had in recent years been significant advances in electronic communications both within and across national boundaries. Those advances had brought about sophistication to the way in which offences involving funds were committed.

The reliance of international

banking on advancing communications technology had added new weapons to the armoury of fraudsters, especially those whose purpose it was to perpetrate fraud across national boundaries.

If the issue of jurisdiction in cases of obtaining by deception was to depend solely upon where the obtaining took place it was likely that the courts, and especially juries, would be confronted with complex and obscure factual issues which had no bearing on the merits of the case.

The court had to recognise the need to adapt its approach to the question of jurisdiction in the light of such changes. That ground therefore failed.

Other grounds having also failed, the appeal against conviction was dismissed.

The application for leave to appeal against the length of the prison sentence was refused but on the confiscation order, the question arose whether the judge had power by virtue of the 1988 Act to make a confiscation order against a defendant in relation to a gift made by him notwithstanding that at the time of the making of the order the donor no longer had realisable assets because he had disposed both of the gift and the proceeds of the gift.

Section 74(3) provided that the amount that might be realised at the time a confiscation was made was the total of all realisable assets, less obligations having priority at that time, together with the total of the values at that time of all gifts caught by the Act.

In their Lordships' judgment, although the judge could not make an order against a defendant in relation to assets which he did not have, it was open to him to make an order in relation to a disposal by way of gift even though the donee, at the time the order was made, had disposed of the gift.

In the present case, however, the donee's statement as to what had happened to the proceeds of sale of the gift from the defendant was accepted by the judge and no evidence was called.

It was unjust, so far as this appellant was concerned, for the judge, having accepted that account, to impose a confiscation order in relation to the gift.

Accordingly the application for leave to appeal in relation to the confiscation order was treated as a ground of appeal and the confiscation order was quashed.

Solicitors: Serious Fraud Office.

MacArthur (Inspector of Taxes) v Greycoat Estates Mayfair Ltd

Before Sir John Vinelton

[Judgment November 6]

Amounts of yearly interest payable on commercial loans made to an investment company by a bank were for the purposes of the company's corporation tax liability to be treated as having been paid at the time such amounts were debited to the account of the company in the books of the bank.

The last part of section 248(3) of the Income and Corporation Taxes Act 1970, now section 338 of the Income and Corporation Taxes Act 1988, was not to be construed as confining the relief to non-yearly or short interest payable by a company under paragraph (b) but was to relate also to debited yearly interest.

Sir John Vinelton so held in a reserved judgment in the Chancery Division dismissing the Crown's appeal from the decision of the Special Commissioner (Dr J. F. Avery Jones) allowing a claim for group relief under section 402 of the 1988 Act by the taxpayer company, Greycoat Estates Mayfair Ltd, for the year ended March 31, 1988 in the sum of £38,880.

Section 248(3) gives the allowance for charges on income paid by a company out of its profits brought into charge to corporation tax.

By section 248(3) the payments referred to as "charges on income" include (a) any yearly interest ... and (b) any other interest payable in the United Kingdom on an advance from a bank carrying on a bona fide banking business in the United Kingdom or from a person ... carrying on business as a member of a stock exchange ... or discount house in the United Kingdom; and for the purposes of this section any interest payable by a company as mentioned in paragraph (b) above shall be treated as paid on its being debited to the company's account in the books of the person to whom it is payable.

Mr Laurence Henderson, QC, for the Crown; Mr Andrew Park, QC, and Mr Hugh McKay for the taxpayer company.

HIS LORDSHIP said that Greycoat Estates Mayfair Ltd, a 100 per cent subsidiary of Greycoat plc

When annual interest is deemed to be paid

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Mr Laurence Henderson, QC, for the Crown; Mr Andrew Park, QC, and Mr Hugh McKay for the taxpayer company.

HIS LORDSHIP said that Greycoat Estates Mayfair Ltd, a 100 per cent subsidiary of Greycoat plc

and the surrendering company, acquired a listed building at Finbury Circus for redevelopment.

Finance was obtained by Luyens for the work under a loan agreement with a group of United Kingdom banks. That agreement provided for interest, calculated on the basis that it accrued from day to day, payable by Luyens to be capitalised unless the borrower elected to the contrary.

In the year ended March 1988, £2,886,539 was debited to Luyens' account in the books of the banks in respect of interest under the facility which was capitalised pursuant to the loan agreement.

A tax inspector, refusing the taxpayer company's claim for group relief, stated that the interest debited but not paid, being yearly interest, was not allowable as a charge on income.

Before the commissioner, it was submitted for the taxpayer company that as a matter of policy, syntax and the layout of section 248(3), and policy the debited yearly interest was treated by the last part of the subsection as having been paid by the phrase "as mentioned in paragraph (b) above" as an adverbial phrase qualifying "payable" and not the noun "interest".

The case for the Crown was that the phrase "payable by a company as mentioned in paragraph (b) above" was an adverbial phrase qualifying "payable" and not the noun "interest".

Thus, it was said, it was not any interest payable by a company that was to be treated as paid if debited in the accounts of the payee but

only interest of the kind mentioned in paragraph (b). Interest other than yearly interest which was made chargeable by paragraph (a).

The commissioner said that had he found section 248(3) to be capable of two meanings that he might have preferred the Crown's interpretation because historically it seemed the more likely.

However, he had not found the last part of section 248(3) capable of two meanings. He concluded that "the meaning contended for by Mr Park seems far more natural ... first on pure textual grounds, in the ease of incorporating the reference back to paragraph (b), secondly the use of 'any interest' in the last part and thirdly in the layout of the subsection."

"Accordingly I think that the textual meaning should prevail, particularly so as I am interpreting a consolidating Act and there should be no need to delve into history to understand it."

The commissioner was correct. It was natural to read the words "as mentioned in paragraph (b) above" as explaining the preceding phrase "payable by a company".

It was interest payable in the United Kingdom by a company on an advance from a bank, stockbroker or discount house answering the descriptions in paragraph (b) that was to be treated as paid when credited in the books of the payee.

Solicitors: Solicitor of Inland Revenue; Herbert Smith.

Services to members of public for planning consent

Kaira v Secretary of State for the Environment and Another

Before Lord Justice Staughton, Lord Justice Henry and Lord Justice Pill

[Judgment October 25]

A solicitor's practice could provide services "principally for visiting members of the public" so as to fall within class A2 of the Town and Country Planning (Use Classes) Order (SI 1987 No 164) despite the fact that it operated a system of appointments.

The Court of Appeal so held, allowing an appeal by Kaira, a solicitor, against the decision of Mr David Widdicombe, QC, sitting as a deputy judge of the Queen's Bench Division on July 15, 1994, to uphold the dismissal by the Secretary of State for the Environment's planning inspector of an appeal against the refusal of planning permission for the change of use of a retail shop to a solicitor's office within class A2 of the 1987 Order.

Ms Mary Macpherson for the secretary of state; Mr Kaira in person.

LORD JUSTICE HENRY said that the judge and the planning inspector had cast doubt on whether a solicitor's practice could be class A2 use. To qualify as A2 use a solicitor's practice had to be providing services principally to visiting members of the public.

Citizens' advice bureaux and law centres provided services prin-

cipally to visiting members of the public. If an individual sought to consult a solicitor on a legal matter on a profit-making basis might he not satisfy the A2 question equally?

In his Lordship's judgment, the fact that a solicitor might need to run an appointments system was not significant. There was no reason to assume that those with appointments had not originally walked in off the streets.

LORD JUSTICE STAUGHTON, concurring, said that the decision highlighted a difficulty for planning authorities. The practice of some solicitors was definitely not class A2 use; their services were principally provided by telephone and correspondence. However, some solicitors did provide services principally to visiting members of the public.

If an authority granted planning permission for an A2 solicitor's office how were they going to police it? That was a problem inherent in the 1987 Order. It could not be solved by denying A2 use to everyone who wished to run an A2 solicitor's office.

If an applicant could plausibly say that his legal services would be principally for visiting members of the public and the planning authority saw no reason to disbelieve him it seemed to his Lordship that all the authority could do was grant planning permission and wait and see.

Lord Justice Pill agreed that the appeal should be allowed.

Solicitor: Treasury Solicitor.

Company liable over discrimination

Hussain and Others v J. H. Walker Ltd

Before Mr Justice Mummery, Mr J. Daly and Mr A. D. Scott

[Judgment November 1]

A company which had unlawfully discriminated against Muslim employees on the ground of their race by forbidding them to take time off for the religious festival of Eid and disciplining them when they did so, had failed to establish that the discrimination was unintentional and the company was liable to pay damages.

Section 57(3) of the Race Relations Act 1976 which provided that damages should not be awarded for unintentional indirect discrimination was not concerned with motive but with the state of mind of the respondent in relation to the consequences of his acts.

The Employment Appeal Tribunal so held in a reserved judgment when dismissing an appeal by the company, J. H. Walker Ltd, from a decision of a Leeds industrial tribunal in March 1994

awarding each applicant £1,000 damages. Appeals by the applicants, Mr Khadam Hussain and 16 others, against the amount of compensation were also dismissed.

Section 57 of the 1976 Act provides: "(3) As respects an unlawful act of discrimination falling within section 1(1)(b), no award of damages shall be made if the respondent proves that the requirement or condition in question was not applied with the intention of treating the claimant unfavourably on racial grounds."

Mr David Pannick, QC, for the company; Mr Z. Iqbal, solicitor, and Mr M. Dawoodji, representative, for the applicants.

MR JUSTICE MUMMERY, giving the judgment of the court, said that the industrial tribunal had found that the company had discriminated against the applicants by forbidding them from taking a day off for Eid on June 11, 1992 and disciplining them when they did so. They had been issued

with final warnings. At a separate hearing each applicant had been awarded £1,000 damages for upset and distress.

The appeal tribunal had concluded that there was no legal error in the tribunal's rejection of the company's reliance on section 57(3) for the following reasons.

In general, cases of indirect discrimination did not involve an intention to treat persons unfavourably on racial grounds. Nevertheless, the wording of section 57(3) presupposed that there might be some cases in which the application of a condition or requirement was with the intention of treating the claimant less favourably on racial grounds. The burden of proof on the respondent company to prove absence of intention.

The crucial question was whether the company applied the requirement that there should be no holiday for any employees in May, June or July with the intention of treating the applicants unfavourably on racial grounds.

Intention signified the state of mind of a person who, at the time when he did the relevant act, wanted to bring about the state of affairs which constituted the

prohibited result of unfavourable treatment on racial grounds and knew that that prohibited result would follow from his acts.

Section 57(3) was not concerned with an intention to bring about a prohibited result. It was concerned with the state of mind of the respondent in relation to the consequences of his acts.

The tribunal was entitled to conclude from its findings of fact that the company had failed to establish that it did not have the intention of treating the applicants unfavourably on racial grounds.

The fact that the company's reason or motive in adopting the holiday policy was to promote its business efficiency did not either displace the company's knowledge of the consequences which followed from applying that condition or requirement or prevent the industrial tribunal from inferring that the company wanted to produce a state of affairs in which the respondents were treated less favourably on racial grounds.

The tribunal were entitled to find that the company did not have the benefit of section 57(3). There was no error of law in the amount of damages awarded.

Solicitors: Baker & McKenzie; Jordans, Dewsbury.

Foreseeability in property purchase

Regina v Secretary of State for Transport, Ex parte Owen

When exercising his discretion to acquire by agreement land affected by proposed highway works, the Secretary of State for Transport was entitled to take into account an applicant's knowledge of the risk that the value of the property might be affected.

When exercising his discretion to acquire by agreement land affected by proposed highway works, the Secretary of State for Transport was entitled to take into account an applicant's knowledge of the risk that the value of the property might be affected.

Mr Justice Popplewell so stated in the Queen's Bench Division on November 3 when dismissing an application by Colonel and Mrs Barbara Owen for judicial review of a decision of the secretary of state made on December 28, 1994 refusing to purchase their house under section 246(2A) of the Highways Act 1980, as inserted by section 68(2) of the Planning and Compensation Act 1991.

HIS LORDSHIP said that Colonel Owen contended that the notes which accompanied the pro forma application form which referred to knowledge were designed to deal with a case where an ap-

plicant had bought the property at a discounted price. In that case the secretary of state should not be required to spend public money at a profit to the applicant.

The converse, however, did not necessarily follow: namely, if a purchaser had access to sufficient information but nevertheless purchased at a price without discount there was an obligation on the secretary of state to purchase.

It might be a matter he would wish to take into account but it was within his discretion. In the exercise of that discretion, the secretary of state was entitled to take into account as a matter of law the principle of foreseeability irrespective of purchase price.

Correction

In *Charter Reinsurance Co Ltd v Fagan and Others* (The Times November 6), the names of the reinsurers were Mr Gordon Pollock, QC, Mr Robert Rutledge, QC and Mr Stephen Rutledge.

THE TIMES

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Decision to rescind unchallengeable

Regina v Ealing London Borough Council, Ex parte Parkinson

Before Mr Justice Laws

[Judgment October 10 and 19]

Once a determination had been made by the local authority that a person was unintentionally homeless under section 64 of the Housing Act 1985, a subsequent decision to rescind an offer of accommodation, made in ignorance of alleged fraud by the applicant, was not subject to judicial review principles.

Mr Justice Laws so held in the Queen's Bench Division when giving judgment (i) on a preliminary issue on October 10 refusing Ealing London Borough Council's motion to strike out Reuben Uche Parkinson's application for judicial review and (ii) in the substantive hearing on October 19 refusing to award Mr Parkinson compensation for Ealing's failure to perform its statutory duty under the 1985 Act to provide him with family with secure accommodation.

Although the local authority had found the applicant to be unintentionally homeless he continued to be housed in unsuitable temporary accommodation. After the granting of leave to apply for judicial review, the local authority decided to provide him with secure housing.

On discovering, however, that the applicant had failed to disclose that suitable accommodation had been made available to him elsewhere by a housing association, the local authority had written to him rescinding its decision.

Mr Robert Latham for the applicant; Mr Ashley Underwood for Ealing.

MR JUSTICE LAWS said, when giving judgment on the preliminary issue, that after the section 64 duty had been executed any second thoughts by the local authority could not assume the shape of a decision under the Act because the Act made no provision for such a historical decision.

That decision therefore, not

being an administrative one under statutory functions, was not subject to judicial review principles. Accordingly the local authority had to make out its case substantively.

On October 19, his Lordship said that the allegation of fraud was hotly contested. The preliminary issue was whether the local authority's submission that the letter constituted a fresh administrative decision under section 64 which rescinded its earlier decision and that that decision was only amenable to scrutiny on conventional public law grounds.

That submission had been rejected. Accordingly, the application could not be defeated merely upon the local authority demonstrating that a reasonable authority might on the evidence before it have concluded that it had been misled by the applicant.

On the substantive issue, his Lordship said, having considered *Cocks v Thanet District Council* (1983) 2 AC 286, that the applicant's case stood or fell according to whether the complaint went to the exercise of a decision-making public law function or to the exercise of an executive function.

That distinction was firmly established by case law; and in any given case a claim for damages could not run unless the act or omission complained of demonstrably lay on the executive side of the line.

The applicant's complaint that the local authority was in breach of its duty to secure suitable accommodation within a reasonable time went to the authority's executive duty, lying in the public domain; see *Moham Ali v Tower Hamlets LBC* (The Times April 15, 1

RESULTS AND STATISTICS

TODAY

Interims: BAA, British Steel, Cranswick, Lanchley Group, Finsbury Trust, General Cable (Q3), London Industrial, Renold, Repmore, James Smith Estates, Trinity Care, Finsale, Carr's Milling Industries, Sidlaw Group, Utility Cable, Economic statistics: Producer prices (October); national food survey annual report (1994).

TOMORROW

Interims: Bank of Ireland, Borthwick, Carnell, Chamberlin & Hill, General Accident (Q3), Great Portland Estates, Guardian Media Group, Marshalls, Jarvis Porter, Sedgwick Group, Suzuki Motors, Wishaw, Wyndeham Press Group, Finsale: Asset Management, Investment Trust, pany, BMG Charles Sidney, BOC Group, James Dicks, Fenner, Foreign & Colonial Emerging Markets, Kleinwort European, Scottish Value Trust, Wierde Stores, Westpac Banking Corporation, Economic statistics: UK companies (Q3); construction: new orders (September).

WEDNESDAY

Interims: British Steel (Q3), Commercial Union (Q3), Dawson International, DCC, S&S, Sull-Water, Flogas, F&C Income Growth Investment Trust, Forward Group, Greenway Holdings, Hambros, Jersey Electricity, Lazard Securities, Lazard Select Investment Trust, Oxford Instruments, Property Partnerships, Telegraph (Q3), Unigate, Volex Group, Finsale: Millwall Holdings, Wirthach Investments, VTR, Economic statistics: Retail sales (October), Labour market statistics: claimant unemployment and unfilled vacancies (October - provisional); average earnings: index (September - provisional); employment: hours, productivity and unit wage costs; industrial disputes; training programme participants; long-term unemployment - quarterly analysis of jobless by age and duration. Minutes of September 29 meeting between the Chancellor of the Exchequer and Governor of the Bank of England.

THURSDAY

Interims: Adam & Harvey, Break for the Border, Cable & Wireless, City of London PR, Hardy Oil & Gas, Invesco English International, Portsmouth & Sunderland, PowerGen, Scapa Group, 800 Group, TING International, Yates Brothers Wine Lodges, York Waterworks, Finsale: Capital Radio, Fidelity Japan OTC, Finsbury Growth Trust, Glasgow Income Trust, S. Lyles, Trac Computers, Wigmore Property Investment Trust, Economic statistics: Motor vehicle production (October); public sector borrowing requirement (October); retail prices index (October).

FRIDAY

Black Arrow Group, Chester Water, Honda Motor Co, Personal Assets Trust, Finsale: None scheduled. Economic statistics: Business enterprise research and development - 1994; machine tools - September.

COMPANIES

PHILIP PANGALOS

BAA flies higher in first half

BAA: The former airports operator sets the tone for another busy week when it is expected to report improved first-half pre-tax profits today of £203 million (£264 million), according to NatWest Securities. An interim dividend of 4.2p (3.75p) is predicted.

Mike Powell at NatWest said that although passenger growth had slowed slightly, revenue per passenger should have gone up while costs had gone down, improving profit margins by an estimated one point. Passenger growth, particularly on the short-haul routes, has been hampered by weak demand for package holidays and competition from the Channel Tunnel.

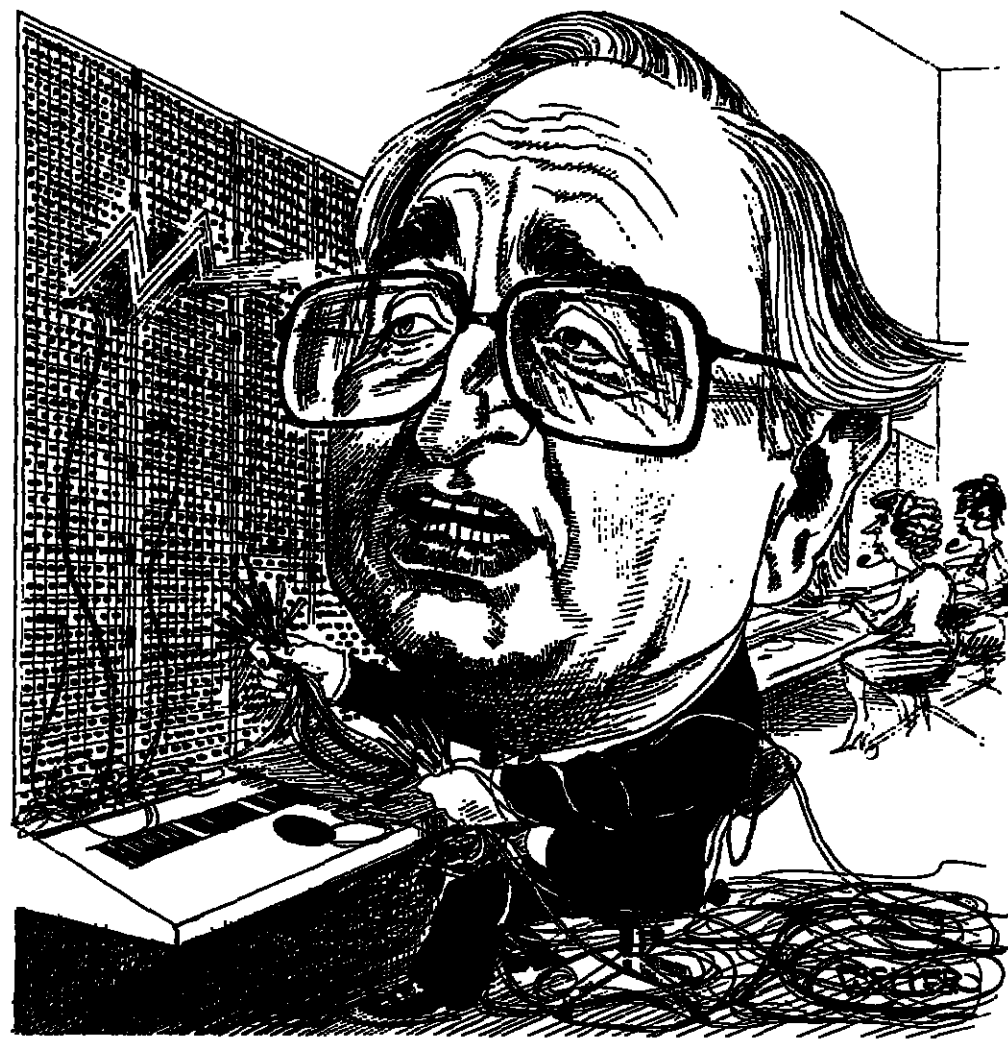
BRITISH STEEL: Volume growth and price increases are expected to help British Steel to announce a strong jump in first-half profits later today. However, analysts will be more interested in what the group has to say about prospects for steel prices and whether it will follow its European counterparts and cut back production.

Albert E Sharp is looking for first-half pre-tax profits of £470 million (£159 million). Market forecasts range from £470 million to £550 million, with the wide range reflecting uncertainty over the group's recent performance in markets suffering from flagging demand from steel users. The interim dividend is predicted to rise to 2.25p-3.5p (2p).

The results are likely to confirm optimistic expectations of improved profitability during the half year, but there are fears that the group's comments on expectations for the coming half may provoke disappointment.

With Asia's hot-rolled steel prices well below Europe's, analysts want to hear how seriously British Steel regards the risk of a price downturn in its home region. Avesta Sheffield, its Swedish stainless-steel associate, recently announced a strong rise in profits but said a stocks build-up among clients meant it was considering brief production stoppages to support pricing.

BOC GROUP: Kleinwort Benson expects first-half pre-tax profits from the industrial gases to healthcare group, due tomorrow, to advance to £395 million (£34.7 million). Market forecasts range from £395 million to £405 million,



Cable and Wireless, chaired by Lord Young, is expected to show a modest but uninspiring rise

with an improved dividend of 24.8p (23.2p) predicted.

GENERAL ACCIDENT: Strong investment income growth and recovery in Canada should help General Accident to a solid advance in third-quarter profits when the composite insurance group reports tomorrow. Credit Lyonnais Laing has pencilled in pre-tax profits of £377 million for the nine months, against £322 million last time. Market forecasts range from £355 million to £380 million.

Higher investment income is expected to be the main driving force behind the improvement. GA's operations in the US are thought to be progressing steadily, but UK underwriting profits

may have slipped. GA should see an increase in its life profits, but there may also be some exposure to Caribbean hurricane losses.

BRITISH GAS: Within a week, British Gas will have lost a senior director, announced it was pulling out of Charter Mark and published third-quarter figures. Attention on Wednesday will focus on its take-or-pay gas contracts. NatWest Securities expects the group to suffer a £100 million loss on gas paid for but not sold in the 1994-95 supply year. The hot summer will have reduced demand substantially and NatWest expects the group to report an historic cost net loss of £255 million in the three months to September, including a £100

million provision, compared with a restated loss of £149 million last time. Loss forecasts range from £140 million to £255 million.

COMMERCIAL UNION: Nine-month profits from CU, due on Wednesday, are expected to be driven sharply higher by advances in North America and The Netherlands, and a full contribution from Groupe Victoire, the French insurer.

David Hudson at Credit Lyonnais Laing has pencilled in nine-month pre-tax profits of £402 million, against a restated £327 million last time. His forecast, struck before an anticipated one-off £12 million loss, is at the top end of market forecasts of £360 million to £390 million.

UNIGATE: Britain's second-largest dairy group should have weathered the dairy deregulation process better than Northern Foods, with milk operations accounting for 30 per cent of Unigate's business compared with nearer half of Northern's.

Dairy profits should hold up well in the face of problems facing the industry, with doorstep deliveries continuing to decline and a price war among food retailers. The Wincanton distribution business should show a robust performance, as should St Ivel and the group's bacon operation.

Tim Potter at Merrill Lynch is looking for "clean" first-half pre-tax profits, due on Wednesday, to rise to £58 million (£54 million), excluding any profits from the disposal of Gillspur. A dividend of 6.6p (6.3p) is predicted. Market forecasts range from £54 million to £61 million.

CABLE AND WIRELESS: Thursday's interim results from the telecommunications giant, chaired by Lord Young of Graffham, are likely to show a modest but uninspiring advance. The group will benefit from an improved performance from Mercury, largely due to cost savings, and a greater contribution from Hong Kong Telecom.

John Karidis at Kleinwort Benson has pencilled in pre-exceptional pre-tax profits of £595 million (£567 million). However, a £194 million exceptional gain from the sale of C&W's stake in the second German cellular licence is expected to boost headline profits to £789 million. Market forecasts range from £590 million to £620 million. Kleinwort is looking for the dividend to rise to 3.2p (2.83p).

Analysts want to hear if Mercury is winning back market share as competition intensifies from BT and cable franchise operators; and wait to see if there is a fall in operating losses at Mercury's One-2-One operation.

POWERGEN: The company, in the process of acquiring Midlands Electricity, is forecast to generate first half pre-tax profits of £131 million (£123 million), according to NatWest Securities, when it reports on Thursday. Market forecasts range from £128 million to £133 million. An interim dividend of 6p (5p) is expected.

ECONOMIC OUTLOOK

Countdown to EMU

This week sees not only a Federal Open Markets Committee meeting in America and a key European Monetary Institute report on transition to the single currency, but also the last key batch of British economic data before the Budget on November 28.

The EMU report, on Tuesday, is expected to present its timetable for the countdown to monetary union and proposals for introducing the single European currency. The Fed will discuss interest rates on Wednesday amid speculation that a rate cut will be considered.

In Britain, October producer prices are released today. Input prices are expected to have ticked up a little, still allowing the annual rate to fall to 9.1 per cent from 9.5 per cent, according to market forecasts collated by MMS International. Output price inflation, however, is expected to rise marginally to 4.6 per cent year-on-year.

On Wednesday, the minutes of the September 27 monetary meeting between the Chancellor and the Governor of the Bank of England are published; they will be dissected particularly for the Governor's tone on interest rates. October's unemployment figures are expected to show a decline of 12,000 compared with September's fall of 27,700.

October retail sales, also on Wednesday, are forecast to be up 0.2 per cent from September's flat performance. The most crucial pre-Budget figure will be Thursday's Public Sector Borrowing Requirement in October. October is the first big month for corporation tax receipts and the Treasury has been arguing that the PSBR's disappointing path this year will look much improved because corporation tax receipts should be buoyant on last year's strong economic growth. The market consensus is for a PSBR of £400 million after September's £3.7 billion.

Also on Thursday come October retail prices figures. Headline inflation is expected to be 3.7 per cent from 3.9 per cent. Underlying inflation, however, is forecast to rise to 3.3 per cent from 3.1 per cent. RPIY, which excludes mortgage-interest payments and indirect taxes, is seen rising to 2.8 per cent from 2.6 per cent.

JANET BUSH

SUNDAY TIPS

The Sunday Times: Buy Rolls-Royce, British Steel, GKN, Green Property, Unecore, British Airways; Hold Dawson International. The Sunday Telegraph: Buy Amec, Parity, Wassall. Independent on Sunday: Buy Scotia Holdings, On Demand Information, Atreus; Sell BSKYB. The Observer: Buy BP, Marks & Spencer. The Mail on Sunday: Buy Frost Group, Morgan Sindall, David Glass Assoc, WPP.

Post-Budget rally expected

This week's economic releases will create a favourable backdrop for the Chancellor to deliver his Budget. The headline rate of inflation will show a sharp fall on Thursday, to about 3.5 per cent, against 3.9 per cent last time, because of beneficial mortgage rate effects. The PSBR, released the same day, should also look less worrying, being helped by seasonal corporation tax payments. Nevertheless, the funding situation remains problematic.

The Chancellor will present a prudent package on November 28, with modest tax cuts, and a post-Budget rally in the gilt market is on the cards. Mr Clarke may be able to better market expectations in two key respects. First, the official

inflation forecast for end-1996 will be revised down to 2.25 per cent in the summer forecast, the Treasury saw underlying inflation at 2.5 per cent in the fourth quarter of 1996, but average earnings growth has since been revised down and manufacturers' price expectations have continued to decline. Secondly, the PSBR for this financial year will not overshoot target by the extent that some fear. At the end of the first half of the financial year, the PSBR totalled £20.4 billion. At the same point last year, the cumulative PSBR was only £20.1 billion but it went on to rise to £35.9 billion. Thus, at a

first glance, it looks as though the PSBR will not be much lower than last year. However, corporation tax payments (three quarters of which are received in the second half) are expected to be £6 billion higher this year and the tightness of spending plans are likely to thwart the departmental spending spree which usually occurs in February and March. Hence the Chancellor will be able to claim that the PSBR will end the financial year at only £27 billion to £28 billion. Even so, this will represent an upward revision from the summer forecast and it will leave a hiatus in the funding require-

ment. The Bank of England's remit for gilt sales has already been revised upwards this year and this will happen again. It looks as though the authorities need to achieve a further £13.5 billion gilt sales during the remaining four months of the financial year. This will require an increase in the amounts sold at the three planned auctions or the insertion of another auction, or tap sales, or some combination of these. It is even possible that an under-fund will be carried over into the new financial year which would be disappointing as redemptions will be sharply higher next year and therefore total gilt sales might have to be higher next year.

The reform of the gilt auction mechanism was welcomed by the market this year but September's auction failure served to remind the authorities that transparency alone is not enough to ensure a trouble-free borrowing programme. In market folklore, interest rates were marched up the hill to attract buyers and then marched down again to give them good capital gains. Whether or not this happened, it certainly cannot anymore in the stable interest rate environment that the world economy faces. Hence the authorities should consider giving the Gilt Edged Market Makers (GEMMs) incentives to participate more actively in the take-up of auction supply.

The GEMMs in any case will lose a special privilege in January with the opening-up of the repo market, which will mean that they are no longer the only agents able to "short" gilts. In a number of other countries, the primary dealers are both assured their status and awarded privileges depending on their auction participation. In the near term, the gilt market is set to benefit from friendly economic data and a bond-positive Budget. The supply risk will, however, re-emerge into the new year. Either way, further reform of the auction mechanism to include incentives may prove necessary to ensure a trouble-free borrowing programme.

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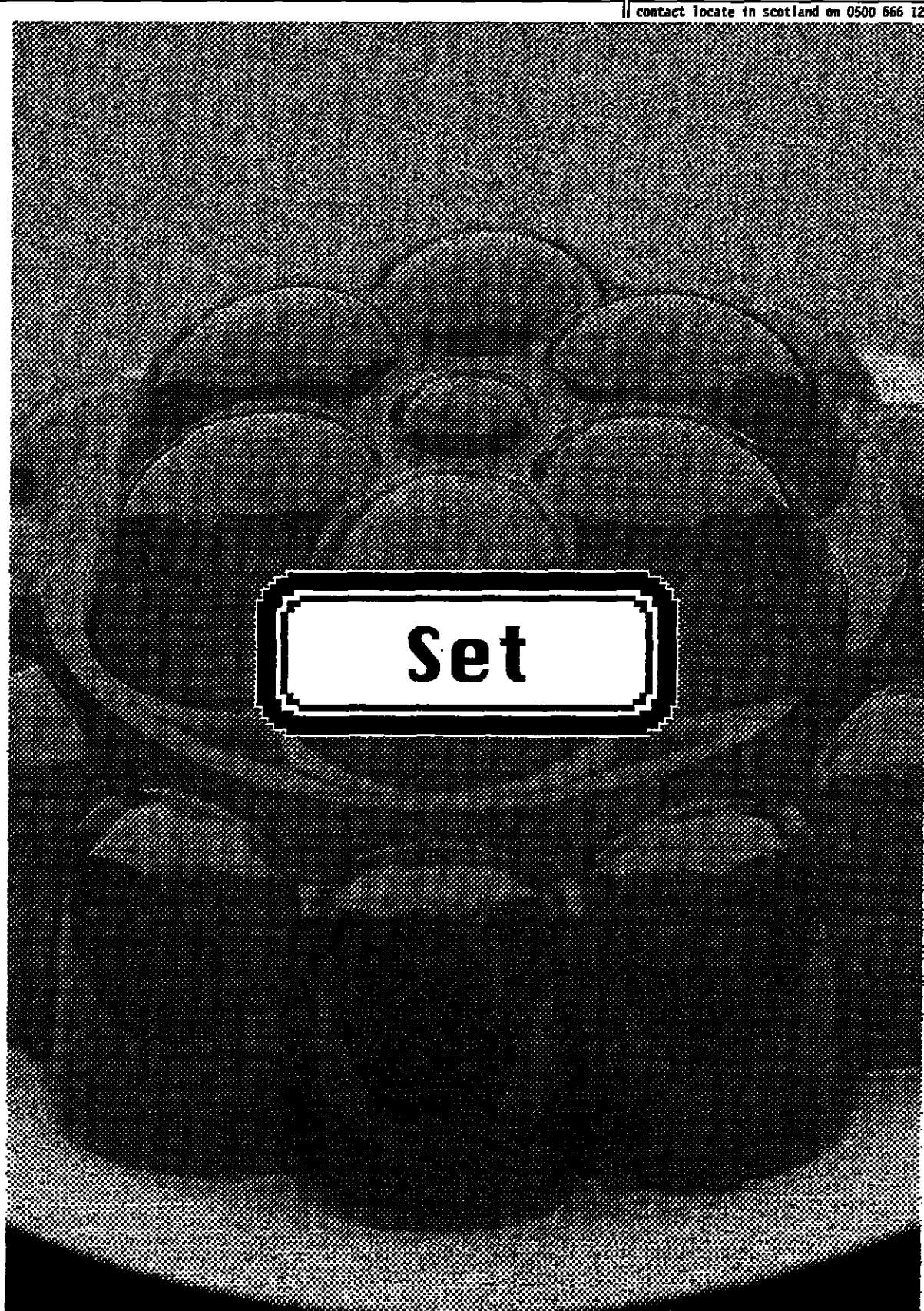
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Calloway firmly on course to keep growing

IN GOLFING terms, the name Calloway has become almost as well-known as Nicklaus, Palmer and Faldo. Strange, because Calloway has never won a major golf tournament on the pro tour, let alone come within spitting distance of achieving the huge purses earned by the other three.

Even so, Ely Calloway has become a household name among golfers worldwide. In a few short years, his fame as a golf club designer and manufacturer has spread from St Andrews to Royal Melbourne.

With the help of his Big Bertha range of woods and irons (named after the big guns used by the Allies in the First World War), he has taken the golfing world by storm and carved a niche in the market. Golf is certainly

Michael Clark reports on a golf club manufacturer driving to expand and diversify in a competitive and fragmented market

big business today. Sales of equipment worldwide are reckoned to top \$3 billion a year, with half that achieved in the US alone. In 1989, Calloway achieved net sales of \$10.38 million. By 1994, that figure had grown to \$448.7 million.

The Calloway name can be seen on the side of professional golfers' bags as well as those of the humble club player out for a leisurely 18 holes on a Sunday morning. No self-respecting club golfer would be seen without a Calloway club in his bag, providing,

of course, that he could afford it.

Calloway's business career started at the US Army procurement office. He became general manager of a textile company and, at one stage, owned a vineyard in California. He moved into golf in 1982, buying a company that specialised in hickory-shafted putters and wedges.

Six years later, he produced his first set of "game improvement" irons, and has since gone on to design and manufacture a full range of clubs and metal woods using special-

ist lightweight metals and carbon fibre. This year, he introduced The Great Big Bertha, a driver made from titanium and carbon fibre. They retail in Britain at £500 each, and demand continues to outstrip supply. The group plans to launch a range of Great Big Bertha clubs next spring in time for the new season.

It is a fragmented market, but Donald Dye, Calloway's chief operating officer, sees no reason for sales not to continue to grow at more than 20 per cent a year. Calloway contin-

ues to develop new ideas, and now has a test centre at its headquarters in Carlsbad, in the US, using air cannons and robots to test clubs, hitting golf balls at speeds in excess of 125mph.

Meanwhile, the group is looking to diversify, perhaps into golf ball manufacturing. It is a tough competitive environment, and Calloway would have to buy an established manufacturer to make any impression.

Sitting on almost \$100 million in cash, Calloway is well-placed to take on established companies, such as Titleist, Wilson, Slazenger and Sumitomo. "We might even consider golf theme parks for the whole family," said Mr Dye. "We could link up with the likes of Walt Disney."

France finds it tough to stay on EMU track

Janet Bush on the reasons behind Germany's goalpost-moving strategy

The French political elite must despair of ever being good enough for the Germans. No sooner had France promised to take another, excruciating step along the path towards a single European currency through a new two-year economic

aid package than Germany made it even harder to finish the course. The timing is cruel and quite deliberate. No sooner had the French Cabinet last week resigned, reshuffled and reformed with the aim of deficit reduction restored to the centre of policy-making than Europe's strong currency hard men started toughening up the criteria France is still desperate to meet.

Wim Duisenberg, head of the Dutch central bank whose thinking is virtually synonymous with that of the Bundesbank, said in a speech in Frankfurt last week that member states should aim to run budget deficits of no more than 1 per cent of their gross domestic product. This is even tougher than the 3 per cent stipulated in the Maastricht treaty.

That view was publicly endorsed on Friday by Theo Waigel, Germany's Finance Minister. Herr Waigel went further, calling for members who do not carry on complying with such hardened Maastricht criteria after the single currency is established to be fined. He said he was officially proposing a post-money union stability pact that would ensure that members have to play by the rules.

As Stephen Lewis of the London Bond Briefing put it: "DM bloc policymakers are unilaterally raising the admission price to EMU, leaving the French to ponder whether they are prepared to pay for it." He noted that Mr Duisenberg, in comments after his speech, indicated that he could envisage monetary union going ahead without Italy but not without France. "In the context of his previous words, this

was tantamount to saying that EMU might not go ahead," Mr Lewis said.

This latest campaign coincided with moves in France that should have made the path to the single currency smoother. Doubts about the French commitment to deficit reduction had led to another irritating attack on the franc and the Bank of France increased interest rates.

The Cabinet reshuffled and committed itself to fiscal austerity, the Bank of France cut rates again and President Chirac and Alain Juppé, his Prime Minister, were given a cautious vote of confidence by the markets. So far, so good.

But Germany has chosen this precise moment to turn the screw. The Bundesbank, and apparently powerful voices in Bonn, are determined to move back the Maastricht deadline for

the single currency until more members — and significantly France — will genuinely comply with economic convergence criteria.

Germany will not give up the mark until the Euro or equivalent is sure to prove at least as strong and stable a monetary anchor for Europe.

The timing of Germany's goalpost-moving exercise last week is also partly related to the publication tomorrow of a key report from the European Monetary Institute, the precursor to a European central bank. The EMI is expected to present its timetable for countdown to monetary union and its proposals for introducing the single European currency.

This will highlight the EMU debate, which is bound to intensify as next year's inter-governmental conference moves closer. But what Germany has done is to focus attention on what might happen after EMU. It will not be enough for France to aim to reduce its deficit to 3 per cent. The reduction has to be sustainable. Even the invigorated French body politic must regard that as daunting.

Peregrine Hodson, in Tokyo, on the Daiwa affair's aftermath

Japanese banking faces upheaval

After shocks of the Daiwa Bank affair, which has revealed serious weaknesses in Japan's regulatory authority methods of bank supervision, continue to reverberate through the country's financial system.

The \$1.1 billion losses incurred by Daiwa Bank as a result of unauthorised trading may sound a lot, but the sum is a mere 0.6 per cent of the bank's assets, estimated at \$183 billion, and has never threatened its solvency. Seen in this light, Daiwa's failure to report the losses to US regulators is more understandable, although its systematic attempts at concealment and misrepresentation remain inexcusable.

It seems that Daiwa's senior management, at least initially, saw the losses at its New York branch as a little local difficulty that, in time, could be resolved, in typically Japanese fashion, behind the scenes without embarrassment. Judging by their lack of urgency in contacting their American counterparts, Japan's Ministry of Finance viewed things in a similar way.

Neither Daiwa Bank nor the ministry were prepared for the US response, culminating in the bank's indictment for fraud and the order to shut the bank's operation in America.

The US Federal Reserve's decision, by its severity, is a stark warning to any other banks tempted, like Daiwa, to bend or ignore the rules. More significantly, it shows the US authorities' dissatisfaction and



Masayoshi Takemura, Finance Minister, is promising to tighten supervision of Tokyo's financial institutions



impatience with the Japanese finance ministry's handling of the affair. Furthermore, the emergence of the so-called Japan "premium" — the extra interest that Japanese banks must pay to borrow money in international markets — signals foreign bankers' unhappiness with Japanese banks' standards of disclosure and the finance ministry's failure to enforce transparency.

In spite of wishful thinking by those who believe that

Japan is fundamentally like any other country, the central issue is cultural difference. Japan has often used the plea of special status to its advantage: in the matter of the structure and practices of Japan's financial institutions, the plea is well founded. The US has several thousand banking inspectors, but the Japanese finance ministry has only 400, of whom only a few are dedicated to overseas banking activities. American

banks are governed by strict measures designed to protect investors, but Japanese banks are directed by "administrative guidance" — often informally through close friendships between bankers and ministry officials — to maintain the overall strength of the banking sector. The Japanese tradition of *amakudari* — whereby ministry officials retire into comfortable posts in banks and securities houses — blunts the effectiveness of Ja-

pan's regulatory system and erodes its credibility.

To restore international confidence in Japan's financial system, Masayoshi Takemura, the Japanese Finance Minister, on Friday announced the founding of a committee to ensure closer communication with foreign regulators, increased supervision of banks' internal audits and overseas branches, and stricter treatment of wrongdoing by financial institutions.

Yukio Yoshimura, counsel to the minister's secretary, later argued that the ministry has learnt from its mistakes with Daiwa and now contemplates a fundamental shift in policy. Conceding that the ministry's supervision has not kept pace with internationalisation, Mr Yoshimura affirmed that the ministry "must maintain tension and an arm's-length relationship". In response to calls for greater transparency, he promised to speed up disclosure with the

release of "enhanced information" — in particular, a briefing tomorrow on Japanese banks' non-performing loans.

The statements may be mere window-dressing by the ministry, but, by now, it must realise that its credibility and the health of Japanese financial institutions are at stake. If the ministry is, indeed, willing to distance itself from the banks and adopt a regulatory stance conforming more closely with international standards, it will be a sign of profound change at the heart of Japan. The ministry has been heavily criticised for its handling of the economy, which, after the bursting of the financial "bubble", remains stagnant in spite of stimulatory measures, and many believe that radical restructuring of the ministry is overdue.

Another repercussion of the Daiwa affair, the proposed merger with Sumitomo Bank, will further accelerate the transformation of Japan's financial landscape. At present, the top six commercial banks in Japan are similar in size, each with assets of about ¥45,000 billion (£300 billion). One of these, Mitsubishi, has already arranged to merge with Bank of Tokyo to create a superbank with total deposits of ¥53,000 billion, but this will be surpassed by the Daiwa-Sumitomo merger, which will create the world's biggest bank, with funding of more than ¥60,000 billion.

Almost certainly, the other commercial banks will follow suit. The conglomerate of these banks, some of which already have the right to do securities business, with others that can engage in fund management, or will soon be allowed to, will create pressures for liberalisation and deregulation that the ministry will have difficulty resisting.

With the emergence of a new generation of superbanks, the control that the ministry has exercised for so long will be increasingly untenable and its *raison d'être* will be called further into question.

Laker set for US air routes

Sir Freddie Laker plans to sell 163,000 transatlantic airline seats a year on up to ten flights a week when his new airline is launched next March.

Details of the US-based Laker Airways Inc will be unveiled today, 13 years after the original Laker Airways collapsed.

Sir Freddie plans to operate to Orlando up to four times a week from Gatwick, three times from Manchester and once from Prestwick, using three McDonnell Douglas DC10 aircraft. He also plans a twice-weekly service to Fort Lauderdale, Florida.

Westland show

Westland Helicopters is among 500 Western arms and aerospace companies seeking orders at Dubai Air Show. It is offering its EH101 and Lynx anti-submarine helicopters to Arab states concerned about the two Russian Kilo class submarines operated by Iran.

Delivery call

The National Federation of Retail Newsagents has renewed its call for a Monopolies and Mergers Commission inquiry even though distributors have suspended plans for rises in delivery charges from January 1.

Listing sought

Two information businesses bought by managers from MCC Group's administrators are to seek a full listing. Wilmington, expected to be valued at around £35 million, will embrace the specialist magazines and electronic market data published by both Waterflow and Wilmington Publishing.

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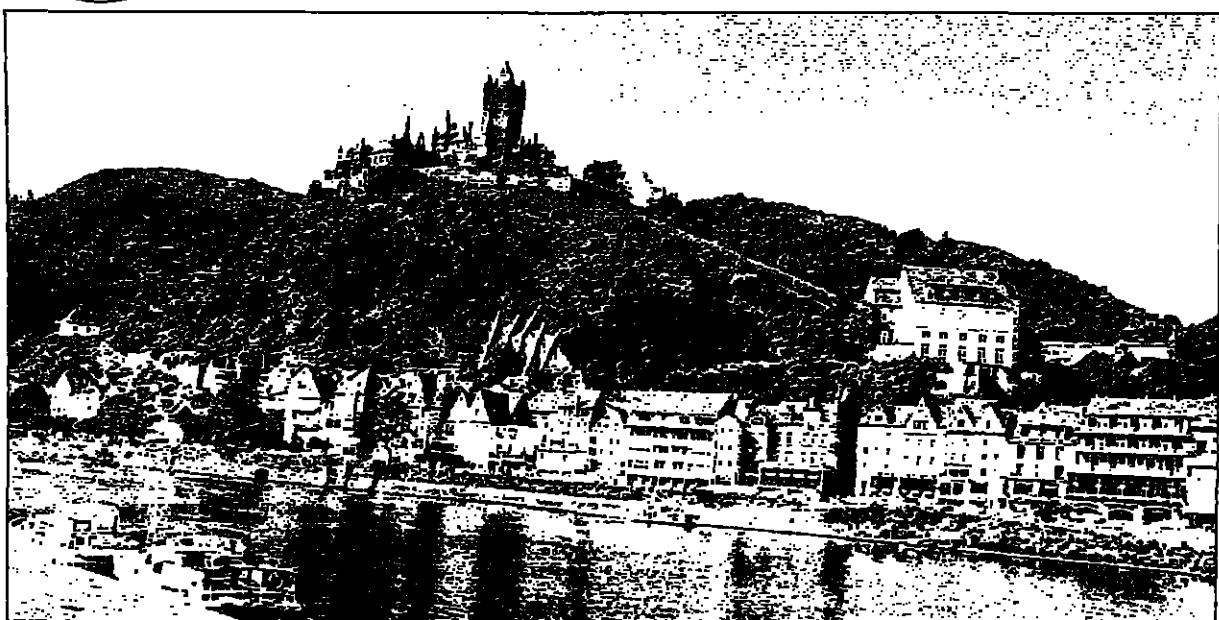
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THE TIMES
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Day 1 Fly from London to Amsterdam and transfer to Arnhem to board the *Rembrandt Van Rijn*. Sail late afternoon along the Rhine, crossing into Germany.
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Day 3 Morning exploration of Remagen. In the afternoon, a leisurely cruise past Koblenz and along the Mosel to Cochem, arriving in the early evening.
Day 4 Day's excursion to the Mosel Valley. Rejoin the ship in Koblenz. Day 5 Sail along the most beautiful part of the Rhine from Koblenz to the medieval town of Boppard and on to Ruedesheim.
Day 6 Arrive in Mannheim and transfer to Heidelberg for a visit of the castle and town. Continue to Speyer where we rejoin the ship. Sail in the evening for Karlsruhe. Day 7 Cruise to Strasbourg for an afternoon tour. Evening sailing for Breisach. Day 8 Visits to Freiburg.

the Black Forest village of St Peter, and Colmar. Return to Breisach for the evening. Day 9 Morning cruise to Basel and afternoon tour of the town. Farewell dinner. Day 10 Disembark and transfer to Neuhausen to see the Rhine Falls. Continue to Zurich and fly to London.

DATE OF DEPARTURE: April 29 - May 8, 1996. Prices from £1,615, down from £1,795 with our exclusive 10 per cent discount. The price includes flights, twinshare accommodation aboard the *Rembrandt Van Rijn*, sightseeing, full-board, a guest speaker and tips.

HOW TO WIN TODAY'S PRIZE

To win today's holiday answer the questions below and phone our competition hotline 0891 40 50 34 which will be open until midnight tonight. The winner will be chosen at random from all correct entries received. Normal Times Newspapers competition rules apply.

1. After which great painter is the cruise ship named?
2. Which place in Germany is also the name of a popular game?

Calls are charged at 30p per minute cheap rate and 40p at all other times.

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TOMORROW: WIN A CRUISE IN THE ADRIATIC

Australian bank stalks UK quarry

FROM RACHEL BRIDGE IN SYDNEY

AUSTRALIA'S largest bank, National Australia Bank, has begun to search for a large UK acquisition amid speculation that it is eyeing Bristol & West Building Society.

The bank, which is expected to unveil a jump in full-year net profits to A\$1.95 billion (\$885 million) on Thursday, says that it is looking to buy a bank or building society in the south of England, where it has identified a gap in its coverage in the UK.

National Australia Bank already owns Clydesdale Bank in Scotland, Yorkshire Bank in Northern Ireland and National Irish Bank in the Republic of Ireland.

A spokesman for National Australia Bank said: "The UK has a lot of appeal. There is a gap in the south of England which we would like to fill. The south of England is quite prosperous and obviously there is an opportunity for us there if the window opens. Our basic strategy is to look in those areas that we understand. The UK is very much a classic example of that."

The spokesman said the bank would normally look to spend up to A\$2 billion on an acquisition, although it would be prepared to pay more for the right business.

It is understood that the bank examined the possibility of buying TSB before its merger with Lloyds Bank was announced, and had made an expression of interest in the sale of National & Provincial Building Society.

Bristol & West, with a price tag of less than £1 billion and a concentration of operations in the south of England would, say analysts, fit both NAB's size and location criteria.

However, banking analysts say that, with the UK in the grip of a consolidation of its banks and building societies,

National Australia Bank will have to move quickly. The bank makes about a third of profits from its overseas operations, which also include the Bank of New Zealand and Michigan National in the US, bought this year for A\$2.1 billion.

Don Argus, the managing director of National Australia, has said that the bank, which has so far made an acquisition every couple of years, would be prepared to move again quickly if the opportunity and price were right. The bank has ruled out making a hostile bid, preferring instead to wait until agreed takeover terms can be reached.

Takeover talks will buoy utility shares

BY CARL MORTISHED

BID talks will put the focus on utility shares this week, with Lyonaise des Eaux meeting Northumbrian Water on Tuesday, while Welsh Water is expected to talk with Swalec, the South Wales regional electricity company, by the end of the week.

Lyonaise will waste little time before it announces a bid for Northumbrian if it fails to secure a recommendation. The market is expecting that an offer would have to be pitched well above £12.50 a share to tempt the Northumbrian board. That means a substantial premium to the share price on Friday of just under £11.

Last week, Northumbrian announced an interim profits increase of a third, to £61 million, mainly due to cost cutting, accompanied by a 17 per cent rise in dividend.



Late arrival: British Airways took delivery of its first £75 million Boeing 777 twin jet yesterday, six weeks late because of engine problems and strikes. BA plans a fleet of 15, with an option on 15 more in a deal that could exceed £2 billion.

Housing shortage predicted

A HOUSING shortage is predicted in London and the South East because of higher than expected immigration (Carl Mortished writes). Research by the Joseph Rowntree Foundation predicts shortages and rising house prices due to a rate of household growth 26 per cent above previous estimates for the period to 2011.

The foundation's 1995/6 Housing Finance Review predicts an extra 737,000 households, of which more than 500,000 are expected to be in London and other metropolitan areas. Surrey is expected to suffer because of Green Belt building restrictions.

The increase in households is due mainly to projections of net immigration of 50,000 per year, including returning British troops and immigration from the EEC.

Board pay spiral linked to FT-SE directors' rates

BY PHILIP BASSETT, INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

THE PEGGING of boardroom pay to Britain's top 100 companies inevitably creates a pay spiral, a new study of directors' pay rises says today.

The report, from Incomes Data Services, the independent pay monitoring body, says that linking boardroom pay to the FT-SE 100 companies is "like betting on a race where you know the winner".

The report, released as Britain's top executives meet at the annual conference of the Confederation of British Industry in Birmingham, is highly critical of the practice.

To use such a benchmark to set directors' pay in other companies, the IDS report says, "is certainly not scientific, and is bound to produce exaggerated results". Because the make-up of the FT-SE 100 is constantly changing, with weaker firms or those simply less successful in terms of stock market performance dropping out of the listing, the companies used as comparators tend to be those that are

buoyant and expensive, with senior staff expecting to be rewarded accordingly.

The report concludes that benchmarking pay at senior management levels often involves an inbuilt tendency to compare salaries and benefits with the most successful firms while ignoring less successful companies, calling this "a major factor in the spiral ascent of top salaries".

In a separate study, the IDS suggests that, in spite of widespread changes in employees' pay bargaining arrangements, pay settlements struck at companies such as Ford are still highly influential.

The IDS report says that in a survey of a sample of private-sector companies almost half cited the pay settlements reached at blue chip firms as being highly influential on their own deals — with Ford mentioned by 10 per cent of the respondents belonged to pay "clubs" of employers, either business — or local — specific, to help them set their pay.

Firecrest Group lights up new market with 91p leap

FIRECREST GROUP provided one of last week's main highlights on the Alternative Investment Market, the new market for smaller and growing companies (Philip Pangalos writes).

Firecrest shares leapt 91p to 158p on Friday after the company landed the UK rights to market and distribute the Digiphone software package. The software allows Internet users to telephone anywhere in the world via the Internet

for the cost of a local call. Camelot Corporation, maker of Digiphone, will take a near 10 per cent stake in Firecrest.

AIM, which succeeds the Unlisted Securities Market and the Stock Exchange's Rule 4.2 facility, now has 107 stocks traded, with a total market capitalisation of £1.79 billion.

David J. Glass Associates began trading on Thursday after a 60p share placing to raise £1.25 million, ending the week at 66p.

CHANGE ON WEEK

THE POUND

US dollar 1.5755 (-0.0045)
German mark 2.2246 (-0.0119)
Exchange index 83.8 (-0.5)
Bank of England official close (4pm)

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 share 2576.3 (+11.4)
FT-SE 100 3523.4 (+23.0)
New York Dow Jones 4870.37 (+44.80)
Tokyo Nikkei Avg 17843.56 (-185.24)

TOURIST RATES

| | Bank Buys | Bank Sells |
|-----------------|-----------|------------|
| Australia \$ | 2.24 | 2.08 |
| Austria Sch | 16.70 | 15.20 |
| Belgium Fr | 48.84 | 44.54 |
| Canada \$ | 2.24 | 2.08 |
| Cyprus Cyp2 | 0.751 | 0.698 |
| Denmark Kr | 9.26 | 8.48 |
| Finland Mk | 7.27 | 6.82 |
| France Fr | 8.10 | 7.45 |
| Germany Dr | 2.38 | 2.17 |
| Greece Dr | 384.00 | 369.00 |
| Hong Kong \$ | 12.84 | 11.84 |
| Ireland Pt | 1.03 | 0.96 |
| Israel Shk | 5.1500 | 4.5000 |
| Italy Lira | 2615.00 | 2460.00 |
| Japan Yen | 173.00 | 157.00 |
| Malta | 0.594 | 0.539 |
| Netherlands Gld | 2.650 | 2.420 |
| New Zealand \$ | 2.58 | 2.34 |
| Norway Kr | 10.43 | 9.83 |
| Portugal Esc | 245.50 | 227.00 |
| S Africa Rd | ref. | 5.40 |
| Spain Pta | 199.00 | 186.00 |
| Sweden Kr | 11.13 | 10.33 |
| Switzerland Fr | 1.59 | 1.75 |
| Turkey Lira | ref. | 78050.0 |
| USA \$ | 1.674 | 1.544 |

Rates for small denomination bank notes as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Other rates apply to travellers' cheques. Rates at close of trading yesterday.

WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 32

ACAPNIA

(a) Diminution or deficiency of carbon dioxide in the blood, from the Greek *akapnos* without smoke. "Many of the deaths under anaesthetics are due to the condition termed acapnia, that is a deprivation of the carbon dioxide tension in the blood."

GRAUNCH

(b) To make a crunching or grinding sound, to cause to make such a sound, hence to damage a mechanism of some kind. Dialect and Kiwi, onomatopoeic, cf. *granch*. "They said they could hear the ship graunching on the rock."

BATTA

(c) Of or pertaining to a people of the northern part of Sumatra. A member of this people or its language. The native name. "During a tempest the inhabitants of a Batta village in Sumatra have been seen to rush from their houses armed with sword and lance."

DENTEX

(c) The common name of a sea bream, *Dentex dentex*, found in the Mediterranean and along the North African Atlantic coast; also used for other members of the genus. From the Latin *dentex*, *dentex*, a kind of marine fish. "Below I saw a big blue dentex with a bitter mouth and hostile eyes."

SOLUTION TO WINNING CHESS MOVE

1... Rdh2+! 2 Kxh2 Bf2+ 3 Kg2 Rh2+! 4 Kxh2 Qh4+ 5 Kg2 Qg3+ 6 Kh1 Qh3 mate.

Game over

MALCOLM EVANS, director of operations (Europe) of Sega Amusement Europe for four years, is suddenly no longer with the company. His son, apparently, to accept a non-executive directorship with Trocadero — London's mega leisure project in Piccadilly — a post that Trocadero's board happily offered him. After all, Sega and Trocadero are joint partners in the Piccadilly venture, and you would have thought that a foot in both camps would have been welcomed by both sides. Obviously not, given his dusty treatment by Sega Europe. Evans, 41, can look back on a distinguished career in the leisure industry. After eight and a half years at Grand Metropolitan where he was commercial director, in 1989 he became managing director of Brent Walker Leisure Services. "The matter of my no longer being with Sega is now in the hands of my lawyers," Evans tells me.

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

crow flies. Duke Street will be bustling with hordes of former colleagues.

Taxing words

THE Chancellor will find some choice reading on his desk this morning, and a reminder of what Adam Smith preached. Ernst & Young contends simplification of the tax system will only happen if ministers and the Inland Revenue change their approach completely. "Fiscal bananas litter the road to tax simplification," the paper argues. Adam Smith's three essentials of a tax system are equity, certainty and cost effectiveness. You have less than two weeks to take note, Mr Chancellor.

Grape expectations

NOW here's a challenge. Would you prefer to own 500 shares priced at £4 each, or a bottle of rather special claret? For auction at Sotheby's on Wednesday are two cases of the legendary Chateau Cheval Blanc 1947. They are expected to fetch between £24,000 and £30,000 a case, equivalent to £2,000 a bottle! Serena Sutcliffe, head of Sotheby's International wine department, is dying to be invited to dinner.

Best foot forward

THEY'VE begun putting the boot in at Merrill Lynch's London headquarters after its takeover of Smith New Court. Staff are raising money for the Dunningford Infants and Juniors School, Hornchurch, Essex, by auctioning footballs autographed by top teams, the idea of John Mulrooney, of Merrill's checking department.

COLIN CAMPBELL

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صهكذا من الامل

little people
big action

To fly one needs both feet on terra firma

If Jennette Winterson's *Great Moments in Aviation* taught us anything, it is this. An actress of Dorothy Tutin's ability may impersonate a lesbian and get away with it, but she could not fool anybody as a golfer. Really, it was terrible. Her stance was a travesty. Her torso made no lateral swivel. With a swing like that, she would go on the ball with every shot. A pun suggests, to be born (which way does she swing?), but gives up. For which blessing? I know you are as glad as I am.

But if Tutin was not a natural ladies' champion, this may have been intentional. Screen *Twin's Great Moments in Aviation* (Saturday, BBC2) was a film all about belief in false ideas, about trust, being the basis of love, and so on. Set in the 1950s, it concerned the several trips of passage of a young West Indian woman, Gabriel Ann (Rakie Ayala, travelling on a colourful, luxurious liner from the

Caribbean to England. Her grandfather had been an aviator - he had taught his life to air - and Gabriel was full of inner passion for things airy and angelic. Whenever there was a chance, for example, she wore wings.

Hello clouds, hello symbolism! Meeting an art lover on board (Jonathan Pryce), she fell in love with him despite his faked Scottish accent. To be honest, I don't know how that fits in.

New this all may sound rather tiresome. Poetry and television are not natural playmates. So Pryce's subplot, involving forgery and murder, art and lies, tethered this airy stuff a little, while Bebban Kidron's direction searched valiantly for comedy. Meanwhile, outside the boat, the water of the Atlantic rippled like the surface of a paddling pool; and on board, no engines purred. This was disappointing, but the money had been spent on actors, and you can't have

it. John Hurt was wasted as a smooth, vengeful cuckold with Byronic hair; but Vanessa Redgrave and Dorothy Tutin were excellent as the two missionaries, who, after 30 years of companionship, finally kiss and cuddle.

The real problem with *Great Moments in Aviation*, conventionally speaking, was that the ideas were in the talk. Even on the symbolic level, it had its weakness. To take flight, a person needs, at some point, to be grounded. Yet despite some emphatic walkingshots of Gabriel's ankle-socks, she never really was.

Jennette Winterson famously told an interviewer that she didn't watch much television, because it was only worth watching when she'd written it. Lumme. I thought, get her. But I was reminded of this last night when I saw *The Mrs Merton Show* (BBC2) an audience member said

REVIEW



Lynne Truss

she didn't have a television either. "Television has killed the art of conversation," she said, laughing. (The audience laughs all the time in *The Mrs Merton Show*). "Who'd want to talk to you?" objected Mrs Merton, kind but firm. "You've got nothing to talk about, you haven't got a telly!" How true, how true. This weekend provided far too much to talk about, in my opinion. Enoch Powell in Michael

Cockerell's *Odd Man Out* (Saturday, BBC2), for example. Here was a real test for a film-maker's objectivity: after all, while it is certainly diplomatic to describe Powell as a politician "prepared to play the racial card," it is quite adequate. The usual anecdotal stuff of Cockerell's films was hard to find here, too, although there was a good story about the hammer taking a fancy to Edward Heath. "This, we later decided, was a momentary lapse of judgment by the hammer."

Powell watched a screen on which footage of his former self was mercilessly projected. He also sorted through some of the many thousands of supportive letters written to him after his "rivers of blood" speech. He still seems to find them heartening, which is odd: to anybody else, the phrase "rivers of blood" is not balm to the ears. "Someone has spoken up for the whole people of

England," he read aloud, proudly. His wife Pamela interjected; she could read the handwriting better. "For the white people of England," she said.

Whops, I seem to have watched nothing but BBC2. But there's nothing new there; and besides, I can always say the knob came off.

Saturday night on BBC2 now has a new arts slot, *Tx*, which kicked off this week with a gentle film about a New York photographer, Nan Goldin, whose subjects over 30 years have been her gay and transvestite friends, many now dead from Aids. Hers was always a morbid art: she took up photography in the first place because she hated to lose the memory of people. A line from *Great Moments in Aviation* was "The camera never lies... about the photographer." And it was borne out here. All her pictures

were of unattractive people in sordid surroundings, but there was no exploitation because - simply - she loved them all.

Finally, one *Man and His Dog* returned on Saturday, also on BBC2. Ranting dog entertainment, as always, supported by "a good crowd" numbering 15 people on a Cumbrian hillside, shivering in gales. The course for the dogs was tortuous and impossible, the rain came down, and the sheep kept remembering appointments elsewhere. In short, it was heaven. Pierce Whistles sent the dogs at over the place, also "Stand, stand!" and "In a bit!" For once, the cats watched with me. They stared in disbelief.

What a terrible life those dogs have! Do this! Go there! Not there! There! Stop! Come back! I kept waiting for a dog to harrumph, stand up on two legs, and put its paws on its hips. "Don't you think a please would be nice?"

- BBC1**
- 6.00am Business Breakfast (44412)
 - 7.00am BBC Breakfast News (9460277)
 - 9.10am Kilroy (s) (4242138)
 - 9.10am News (Ceefax) (5782690) 10.05 Housemates (s) (583333) 10.35 Good Morning with Anne and Nick (s) (4673706)
 - 2.00am News (Ceefax), regional news and weather (5934042) 12.05pm Pebble Mill with Debbie Reynolds (s) (4523004) 12.50 Regional News and weather (23467042)
 - 1.00 One O'Clock News (Ceefax) and weather (91752)
 - 1.30 Neighbours (Ceefax) (s) (2542248) 1.55 Knots Landing (s) (5700787) 2.40 The Clothes Show (s) (Ceefax) (s) (2481597)
 - 3.05 Incognito Quiz (s) (1058955)
 - 3.30 Philbert the Frog (s) (s) (5989865) 3.35 Oakie Doke (s) (5706139) 3.45 Dear Mr Barker (s) (5882503) 4.00 Alvin and the Chipmunks (s) (2367771) 4.15 Phantom 2040 (Ceefax) (s) (6302706) 4.35 Newsround Hill (s) (Ceefax) (s) (1923329) 5.00 Newsround (Ceefax) (5845435)
 - 5.10 Blue Peter (Ceefax) (s) (5488936)
 - 5.35 Neighbours (s) (Ceefax) (s) (1964348)
 - 6.00 Six O'Clock News (Ceefax) and weather (138)
 - 6.30 Regional news magazines (619)
 - 7.00 Telly Addicts. Noel Edmonds presents the television trivia quiz show (Ceefax) (s) (5226)
 - 7.30 Watchdog. Consumer affairs. (Ceefax) (s) (503)
 - 8.00 EastEnders. (Ceefax) (s) (7874)



Rowan Atkinson as Inspector Fowler (8.30pm)

- CHOICE**
- 8.30 The Thin Blue Line (s) (3481)
 - 9.00 Nine O'Clock News (Ceefax), regional news and weather (8459)
 - 9.30 Panorama: 'Til Death Us Do Part. An investigation into why four out of ten marriages in this country end in divorce. (Ceefax) (71553)
 - 10.10 Chiff Subject to Contract. Comedy with Lenny Henry (s) (Ceefax) (s) (735555) WALES: 10.10 Deez Ray (735555) 10.40 Chiff (400110) 11.10 Omnibus (569042) 12.00 Film 95 (73375) 12.30-1.40 Steven Spielberg's Amazing Stories (4590269)
 - 0.40 Omnibus: Norman Foster. A profile of the "man behind the architect" Sir Norman Foster, who designed Standed airport, the Hong Kong and Shanghai Bank and the Law Faculty at Cambridge University (Ceefax) (s) (248968)
 - 1.30 Film 95 with Barry Norman. Barry Norman reviews The Scarlet Letter and Tommy Boy. Kenneth Branagh is the studio guest, talking about his new low-budget film in the *Black Mirror* (Ceefax) (s) (61023)
 - 12.00 Steven Spielberg's Amazing Stories. A double bill. The *Eternal Mind*: a dying scientist discovers a way to transplant the human mind into a computer and volunteers himself as a test subject. *Go to the Head of the Class*, directed by Robert Zemeckis, is the tale of a teenage honor buff who helps a classmate to use black magic on their eccentric teacher. (Ceefax) (s) (8439207)
 - 1.10am Westworld (3363424)

VARIATIONS

- ANGLIA**
- As London except: 12.50 Coronation Street (5934042) 1.25 Home and Away (5934042) 1.50 Father Time (5934042) 2.00 The Bill (5934042) 2.25-3.00 Blue Heelers (5934042) 3.00-3.30 Coronation Street (5934042) 3.30-4.00 Coronation Street (5934042) 4.00-4.30 Coronation Street (5934042) 4.30-5.00 Coronation Street (5934042) 5.00-5.30 Coronation Street (5934042) 5.30-6.00 Coronation Street (5934042) 6.00-6.30 Coronation Street (5934042) 6.30-7.00 Coronation Street (5934042) 7.00-7.30 Coronation Street (5934042) 7.30-8.00 Coronation Street (5934042) 8.00-8.30 Coronation Street (5934042) 8.30-9.00 Coronation Street (5934042) 9.00-9.30 Coronation Street (5934042) 9.30-10.00 Coronation Street (5934042) 10.00-10.30 Coronation Street (5934042) 10.30-11.00 Coronation Street (5934042) 11.00-11.30 Coronation Street (5934042) 11.30-12.00 Coronation Street (5934042) 12.00-12.30 Coronation Street (5934042) 12.30-1.00 Coronation Street (5934042) 1.00-1.30 Coronation Street (5934042) 1.30-2.00 Coronation 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Investment offenders may have to publicise their sins

PIA threatens rule-breakers with expulsion



Bowe: extra weapon

By ROBERT MILLER

PENSIONS and investment advisers who fall foul of their regulator may soon be forced to pay for advertisements detailing their own failings.

The Personal Investment Authority (PIA) is planning to introduce next year individual contracts between companies advising on pensions and selling investments.

Such contracts would enable the PIA, the regulator for firms selling direct to the public, to fine individual salesmen and, if necessary, expel them from the industry. It would also

bring the investment authority into step with its fellow front-line regulator, the Securities and Futures Authority, which polices brokers and futures traders.

The PIA is understood to be ready to publish its proposals on individual registration within days and the consultative document will be sent out together with a statement of discipline. The statement, drawn up in the face of fierce opposition from

the industry, will give the PIA powers to insist that members found guilty of serious rule breaches must take out full-page advertisements detailing the nature of their offences. If the PIA's disciplinary committee considers it appropriate the offending company could be ordered to place the advertisement in every single national newspaper.

Colette Bowe, chief executive of PIA, has personally endorsed the

tough statement proposal, which will be an addition to the penalty of fines rather than a replacement. The PIA has added the extra weapon to its disciplinary locker as an alternative to ever-escalating fines, because the money to pay these is in effect drawn from innocent shareholders and mutual policyholders. In the same way, individual registration could impose penalties on the rule-breaker rather than the organisation as a whole.

The PIA board is due to meet this week with the long-term funding of the Investors Compensation Scheme at the top of the agenda. Sharing top billing will be the controversial topic of multi-ties. This is a halfway house between the independent adviser that under the present system must give "best advice" from the entire range of savings and investment products, and the tied agent, who can only sell the products of one particular life company.

Multi-ties would allow independent advisers to form links with several life offices.

Congress
urges
softer line
on Budget

Robert Rubin, the United States Treasury Secretary, last night renewed his call for the Republican-controlled Congress to abandon efforts to force President Clinton to balance America's budget in just seven years' time.

With a temporary agreement set to expire on Wednesday, America's government machinery faces shutdown unless a new deal can be secured. President Clinton's administration says it needs 10 years to bring the budget under control without risking default.

Hopes in US financial markets for an interest rate cut are overshadowed by the political stand-off. The Federal Open Market Committee meets on Wednesday to discuss rates on the day that the current ceiling on Government debt becomes binding.

All change

Hambros, the merchant bank and financial services group, is expected to accompany a slump in interim profits, due on Wednesday, with management changes to help to revive its flagging fortunes. Changes could result in Sir Chips Keswick, deputy chairman, becoming chief executive. Forecasts suggest that Hambros may slide to a loss for the six months to September 30.

Green lobby

A cross-industry lobby will today press Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, to promote environment protection in industry by providing accelerated depreciation allowances on investment in novel environmental technologies. Adrian Wilkes, director of the Environmental Industries Commission, called for UK companies to "get the same level of support as their German, US and Japanese competitors."

Graham Searjeant, page 46

Club bought

The Sanctuary, the celebrated women's health club in Covent Garden, London, has been bought for £5 million by Allan and Tanya Wheway.

CBI warns
against tax
giveaway

By PHILIP BASSETT, INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

THE Confederation of British Industry, has warned the Chancellor against taking risks with public borrowing in a "giveaway" Budget.

Britain's business leaders want only limited tax cuts in the Budget, according to a CBI survey yesterday. Indeed, more than a third of company chiefs questioned said that they would prefer no tax cuts.

CBI leaders will today urge caution on tax cuts when the CBI's annual conference, in Birmingham, considers Budget options. The organisation will insist that tax cuts can be made only if funded by "credible" cuts in public spending.

Speaking before conference visits by a stream of political leaders, including Michael Heseltine, Deputy Prime Minister, and Tony Blair, the Labour leader, the CBI insisted that it was not attacking the Government's policy on the economy, but wanted it to lead in building up Britain's competitiveness, workforce skills and infrastructure.

In a snapshot survey for the conference of 230 CBI members on Budget hopes, an overwhelming majority made clear that they wanted, at best, only limited tax cuts. Ninety-

five per cent of those surveyed said that they would prefer that any discretionary loosening of public borrowing to fund tax cuts be limited to less than £3 billion.

CBI members were almost equally divided over whether there should be tax cuts at all, with 38 per cent opposed to a cut in the basic rate of income tax, and 37 per cent for one. Business would like any personal tax reductions to take the form of an above-inflation increase in personal tax allowance.

Blair business bridge.....46

ances, to take people out of the tax net and increase incentives for the lower-paid, with 85 per cent of those surveyed agreeing with such a move.

Adair Turner, CBI Director-General, said: "We see Kenneth Clarke in a difficult dilemma between the requirements of fiscal prudence and the lure of personal tax cuts. Business puts more weight behind the former."

The CBI's "gut feeling", he said, was that, although there was an opportunity for tax cuts, it was not large. On interest

rates, whose next move, the CBI believes, is likely to be down, he said: "We should be slightly more worried about the slowdown becoming more of a one-year or two-year out-inflationary pressure."

CBI leaders said that it was crucial that companies did not relax their drive to improve competitiveness. Although manufacturing productivity and performance had improved, there were "still far too many under-achieving companies in the UK".

Alec Daly, the CBI's deputy director-general, said: "It is vital that the Government is not pushed off course by policies driven by short-term expediency. Government and Whitehall commitment to improving UK competitiveness is crucial if UK economic performance is to continue improving."

The CBI yesterday launched a computer-based benchmarking initiative called Probe, aimed at boosting company performance.

□ Tax cuts will not restore consumer confidence, stimulate investment or boost jobs, the TUC says today. In an updated Budget submission, it says that although political attractions of tax cuts are obvious, the economic benefits are "unconvincing". The Chancellor has to choose between investment and tax-cutting, it says.



Adair Turner, left, and Sir Bryan Nicholson, CBI president, in Birmingham yesterday

British Gas beats BP
as biggest UK company

By MARTIN BARROW

BRITISH GAS, the much-maligned privatised utility, emerges as Britain's biggest company in the 1996 edition of *The Times 1000*, published today.

Despite the loss of market share to independent gas suppliers, British Gas tops the list of the country's principal industrial groups, comfortably ahead of British Petroleum, HSBC Holdings and Shell Transport & Trading.

The *Times 1000* has been rebased in an effort to better measure company size, and now rates companies according to capital employed — money invested in a business — instead of turnover. British Gas, with capital employed of £24.6 billion, leaps ahead of BP, whose capital employed is £20.8 billion, and HSBC, parent company of Midland Bank, with £20.6 billion. Shell lies fourth, with £20.08 billion.



Energy and financial services, mainstays of the economy, dominate the rankings, overshadowing manufacturing industry. The inclusion of financial companies for the first time has had a dramatic impact. In addition to HSBC, there are places in the top 10 for Abbey National, Barclays, National Westminster and Salomon Brothers (Europe). No fewer than 14 of the top 50 companies operate in banking or insurance.

Measured by stock market

value the biggest company is British Telecom, valued at £24.8 billion, followed by BP at £23.4 billion and Shell at £23.08 billion. British Gas lags well behind. Capitalised at around £13.5 billion, it has suffered because of adverse City sentiment over fears of tighter regulation and greater competition.

Britain's biggest employer is the Post Office, with a workforce of 193,196. British Telecom follows, employing 148,900, despite significant cutbacks. Heading the list of the world's top 50 industrial companies is Japan's Nippon Telegraph & Telephone Corporation, whose capital employed of £73.3 billion dwarfs BT. America's General Motors is second, followed by Tokyo Electric Power and General Electric of the US.

□ *The Times 1000 1996* is published by Times Books, 77-85 Fulham Palace Road, London W6, priced £35.

Fund chiefs
expect
Labour win

NINETY-FIVE per cent of UK fund managers expect the Labour Party to win the largest number of seats in the next general election, according to the latest monthly survey conducted by Gallup for Merrill Lynch, the US securities group (Philip Pangalos writes).

The November survey involved 88 institutions handling funds totalling £1,120 billion. The survey found that UK fund managers are still wary of investing more in British companies, but confidence has improved slightly. A balance of just 1 per cent are looking to raise their UK equities exposure, against a balance of 3 per cent looking to reduce their exposure in the October survey.

Managers prefer the Pacific Rim, where 32 per cent aim to invest more. Hong Kong is the favourite market, selected by 44 per cent of fund managers. On the UK economy, 65 per cent of managers expect an improvement (60 per cent in October).

Judge criticises threat to cut off customers

Blunder may cost Thames £2m

By ALASDAIR MURRAY

A SERIES of billing errors may cost Thames Water up to £2 million after an out of court settlement with three customers in a late-payment dispute.

Thames dropped the cases after it was criticised by a judge for unlawfully threatening to disconnect a sewerage customer's water supply.

The company had brought actions against customers refusing to pay sewerage bills sent out up to two and half years in arrears. Thames has made a number of blunders when billing customers

in areas where independent companies supply the water and Thames the sewerage services. An estimated 5,500 people in the Thames region have had bills for substantial arrears of this nature.

Although it was legal for Thames to demand payment for the arrears, the judge ruled that the company had no right to threaten disconnection when it did not provide the water supply.

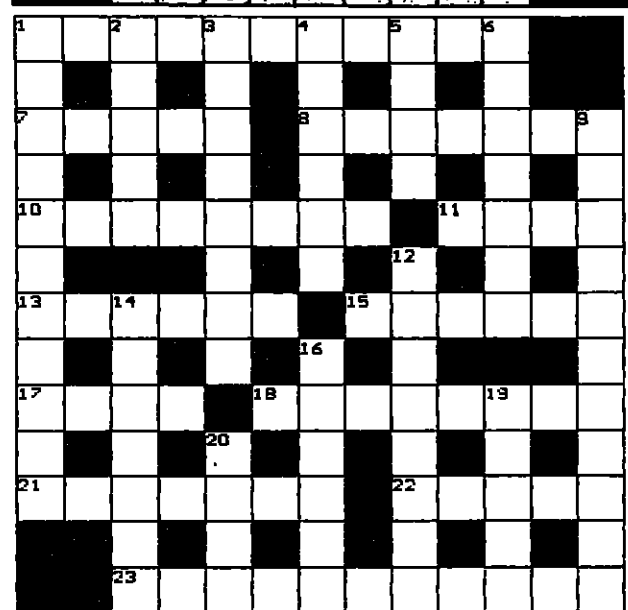
Thames blamed the error on its computerised billing system. Chris Foreman, a spokesman, said: "We are allowed by law to seek payment for up to six years in arrears. We admit that mistakes have been

made and have apologised for them. But we feel that non-payment is not fair on the customers who have paid."

Neil Fishpool, who co-ordinates the National Campaign for Water Justice, is now threatening to take Thames to court for harassment, after receiving a number of unlawful disconnection notices. He said Thames had sent unlawful notices "to vulnerable pensioners, which caused a great deal of unnecessary distress".

An Ofwat report earlier this year called the Thames customer service "very poor".

Talks buoy shares, page 45

TIMES TWO
CROSSWORD

No 625

- ACROSS
- In a tent (5,6)
 - Take over: assume (5)
 - Acidic pin for winding thread (7)
 - Reduced in number, strength (8)
 - Uriah — (*Dickens*) (4)
 - Purpose: complain (6)
 - Completely drunk (6)
 - St Columba's Hebridean island (4)
 - Longest chord in circle (8)
 - Retreat safely; recover (3,4)
 - Additional (5)
 - Vegetable casserole (11)
- DOWN
- (Person) heading for success (2-3,6)
 - Go limp (5)
 - Economise (8)
 - Meet (need) (6)
 - Blank (esp card suit) (4)
 - Most disconsolate (7)
 - Confiscate (for official use) (11)
 - Processional torch (8)
 - Caretaker (7)
 - Inset gate; bowler's target (6)
 - Result of addition (5)
 - Missile; tack (4)

SOLUTION TO NO 624

ACROSS: 2 Intrigue 6 Pippin 8 Oplate 9 Charlie 10 Scint 12 Capability 16 Crystal set 18 Cameo 20 Granary 21 Oblige 22 Euclid 23 Latitude

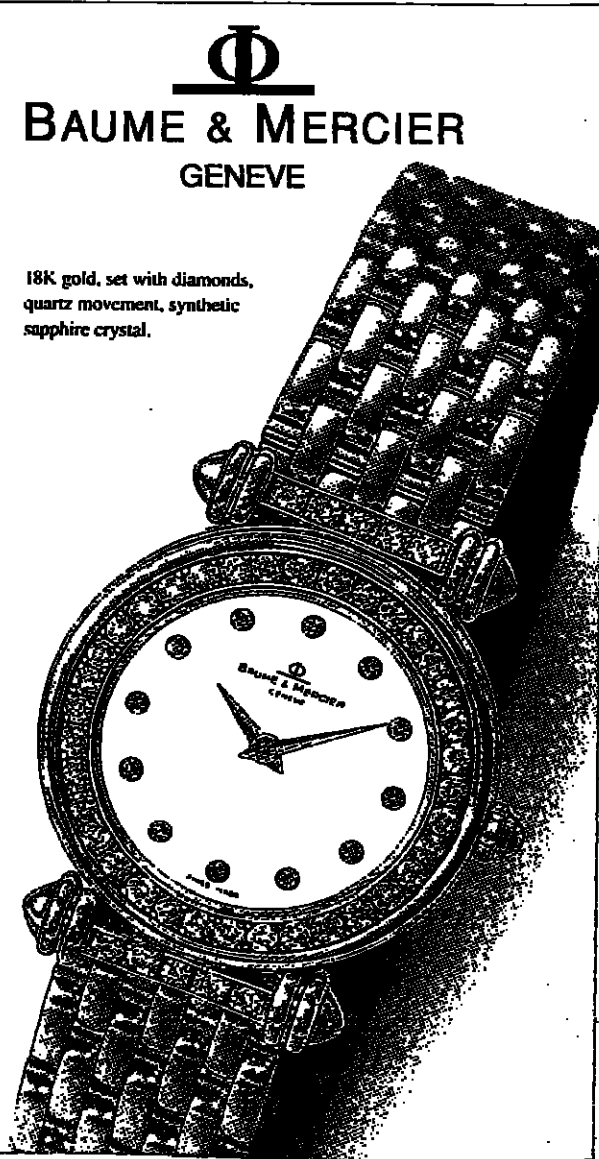
DOWN: 1 Richmal 2 Infinity 3 Repeat 4 Grave 5 Events 7 Parlane 11 Cynic 13 Intermix 14 Georgia 15 School 17 Rot-gut 19 Mulet

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